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Report of the Governing Council on the work of its twentieth session

1–5 February 1999

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* The full proceedings of the Governing Council on the work of its twentieth session, containing, *inter alia,* chapters on the discussions under each agenda item, is being circulated to Governments under the symbol UNEP/GC.20/48.

Chapter I
Introduction

1. The twentieth session of the Governing Council of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) was held at UNEP headquarters, Nairobi, from 1 to 5 February 1999. The Council adopted the present report at the 11th meeting of the session, on 5 February 1999.

Chapter II
Organization of the session

A. Opening of the session

2. The twentieth session of the Governing Council was opened on 1 February 1999 by Mr. Sid-Ali Ketrandji (Algeria), Vice-President of the Council at its nineteenth session.

3. Mr. Shafqat Kakakhel, Deputy Executive Director of UNEP, read out, on behalf of Mr. Klaus Töpfer, Executive Director of UNEP, a message to the participants at the twentieth session of the Governing Council from Mr. Kofi Annan, Secretary-General of the United Nations.

4. The opening meeting of the session was also addressed by representatives of youth organizations, who referred to the call to youth in Agenda 21 to participate actively in environmental matters and pledged their commitment to mobilize youth in their own countries to work for the good of the environment. To that end, their forum had established a youth advisory council for UNEP, which would facilitate the involvement of youth in all aspects of the organization's work, including in the negotiation and preparation of environmental legislation and treaties and the formulation of work programmes. Pleading with representatives not to politicize the environment, they urged Governments to develop a vision for the global environment and to increase their financial contributions in realizing that vision. We must all live simply, they said, so that future generations could simply live.

5. The representative of Venezuela read out a statement from Mr. Arnoldo José Gabaldón (Venezuela), President of the Council at its nineteenth session, who recalled that he had assumed the presidency at a time of crisis for the organization and noted, with gratification, that UNEP had largely overcome that crisis over the intervening two years, thanks to such measures as the adoption of the Nairobi Declaration on the Role and Mandate of the United Nations Environment Programme; the strengthening of the Committee of Permanent Representatives; and the establishment of the High-level Committee of Ministers and Officials. Highlighting other landmarks in the work of UNEP over that period, including strengthened cooperation with the Global Environment Facility (GEF), he wished the incoming President and his Bureau every success in their future work.

6. Mr. Sid-Ali Ketrandji then addressed the Council. In his statement, he said that the forthcoming session of the Council marked an important stage in the process of change and renewal of UNEP. The proposed programme of work for the period 2000–2001 aimed to give effect to the reforms instituted by the Executive Director and included among its areas of focus support for Africa and the addressing of regional concerns. He stressed that UNEP must be given the necessary financial resources to perform its role as a global moral authority and efficient instrument in the field of the environment. To that end, he welcomed the strengthened coordination between UNEP and GEF and drew attention to the important task faced by the Council at its current session in preparing the UNEP contribution to the forthcoming session of the Commission on Sustainable Development. In conclusion, he hoped that the current session of the Council would help launch a new universal compact on protection of the environment which eschewed the ponderous and short-term procedures of the past and gave expression to true international solidarity.

7. Mr. Francis Nyenze, Minister for Environmental Conservation of Kenya, representative of the host Government, welcomed all participants on behalf of the people of Kenya. He congratulated the Executive Director on the progress made to date and assured him and his staff of the continued support of the Government of Kenya. He also expressed gratitude for the support UNEP was offering to Africa and hoped that that assistance would continue, to enable Africa to implement its environmental programmes and meet its obligations under the various international environmental agreements. Finally, he urged the members attending the current session of the Council to look for all possible ways and means of further enhancing the role of UNEP as the principal United Nations body in the field of the environment by supporting it with adequate, stable and predictable funding.

8. Also at the opening meeting, the Council heard a statement from Mr. Klaus Töpfer, Executive Director of UNEP. In his statement, Mr. Töpfer applauded the invaluable efforts of the Committee of Permanent Representatives to UNEP in the preparations and discussions over the months leading up to the current

session of the Council. The areas of concentration agreed by the Governing Council at its fifth special session remained of key relevance. Financial setbacks resulting from recent economic and financial shocks should not result in long-term reversal of environmental policies. Noting the new integrated organizational structure of UNEP, which was functional rather than sectoral, he emphasized that the budget of $119.41 million, including $100 million for programme activities, was the minimum necessary for UNEP to regain its effectiveness, critical mass and operating capital. In closing, he applauded the increased contributions to the Environment Fund by 33 Member States since 1998 and hoped that the trend would mean that the 1998–1999 approved budget would be fully funded.

9. The full statement of the Executive Director was subsequently circulated under the symbol UNEP/GC.20/2/Add.1.

B. Attendance

10. The following 52 States members of the Governing Council[1] were represented at the session:

Algeria
Argentina
Australia
Austria
Belarus
Belgium
Benin
Botswana
Burkina Faso
Burundi
Cameroon
Canada
Chile
China
Colombia
Comoros
Cuba
Czech Republic
Finland
France
Germany
Hungary
India
Indonesia
Iran (Islamic Republic of)
Italy
Jamaica
Japan
Kenya
Malawi
Mauritania
Mexico
Morocco
Netherlands
Nigeria
Norway
Pakistan
Peru
Philippines
Poland
Republic of Korea
Russian Federation
Samoa
Slovakia
Sudan
Thailand
Tunisia
Turkey
United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland
United States of America
Venezuela
Zimbabwe

11. The following States not members of the Governing Council but Members of the United Nations or members of a specialized agency or of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) were represented by observers:

Bangladesh
Brazil
Costa Rica
Côte d'Ivoire
Cyprus
Denmark
Egypt
Ethiopia
Ghana
Greece
Guatemala
Holy See
Iceland
Iraq
Israel
Kuwait
Mali
Malta
Mauritius
Monaco
Mozambique
Namibia
New Zealand
Nicaragua
Oman
Portugal
Romania
Saudi Arabia
Senegal
Seychelles
South Africa
Spain
Sri Lanka
Swaziland
Sweden
Switzerland
Uganda
United Republic of Tanzania
Viet Nam
Yemen
Zambia

Palestine was also represented.

12. The following United Nations bodies, Secretariat units and convention secretariats were represented:

Department of Economic and Social Affairs
Division for Ocean Affairs and the Law of the Sea
Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs
Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP)
Economic Commission for Africa (ECA)
Economic Commission for Europe (ECE)
United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat)
United Nations Development Programme Office to Combat Desertification and Drought
United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)
Secretariat of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification
Secretariat of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change
United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA)
United Nations Institute for Training and Research (UNITAR)

13. The following specialized agencies were represented:

Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO)
International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA)
International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO)
International Maritime Organization (IMO)
United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO)
United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO)
World Bank
World Health Organization (WHO)
World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO)
World Meteorological Organization (WMO)
World Trade Organization (WTO)

The International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) was also represented.

14. The following intergovernmental organizations were also represented:

African Development Bank (ADB)
European Community
Interstate Ecological Council
League of Arab States (LAS)
Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD)
Organization of African Unity (OAU)
Organization of American States (OAS)
Regional Organization for the Protection of the Marine Environment (ROPME)
South Asia Cooperative Environment Programme (SACEP)
Southern African Development Community (SADC)
World Tourism Organization (WTO)

15. In addition, 40 non-governmental organizations were represented by observers.

C. Election of officers

16. At the opening session of the meeting, on 1 February 1999, the Council elected the following officers by acclamation:

President:	Mr. László Miklos (Slovakia)
Vice-Presidents:	Mr. Jean P. Nsengiyumva (Burundi)
	Mr. Leandro Arellano (Mexico)
	Mr. Jan Pronk (Netherlands)
Rapporteur:	Mr. Hossein Fadaei (Islamic Republic of Iran)

17. In his acceptance statement, the President recalled that the current revitalization of UNEP had been defined by the adoption of the Nairobi Declaration on the Role and Mandate of the United Nations Environment Programme by the Council at its nineteenth session, and said that the appointment of Mr. Klaus Töpfer as Executive Director had significantly helped to restore the confidence of Governments in UNEP and its leadership. Referring to the agenda of the current session, he drew particular attention to the proposed budget and programme of work for the biennium 2000–2001, in which special attention had to be paid to the availability of resources; the need to revisit the current work programme and related budget approved by the Council at its nineteenth session, in the light of the changes in the organizational structure and the reorientation of areas; the UNEP contribution to the seventh session of the Commission on Sustainable Development; and the need to have a full discussion on the issue of freshwater. He also stressed the need to strengthen the role of UNEP as an implementing agency of GEF as well as the need for better coherence, coordination and efficiency with respect to the global environmental conventions and the support that UNEP provided to them. In conclusion, he said that the current session should send out positive signals of the progress made by UNEP in the process of revitalization and reform, and should reaffirm its support for the work of the Executive Director in the implementation of the UNEP work programme.

D. Credentials of representatives

18. In accordance with rule 17, paragraph 2, of the rules of procedure of the Council, the Bureau examined the credentials of representatives attending the session. The Bureau found the credentials in order and so reported to the Council, which approved the Bureau's report at the 11th plenary meeting of the session, on 5 February 1999.

E. Agenda

19. At the opening meeting of the session, the President explained that items 6, 7 and 8 had been added to the revised provisional agenda (UNEP/GC.20/1/Rev.1) by the Executive Director in the light of developments which had not been foreseeable at the time of the adoption of the provisional agenda at the Council's nineteenth session. The Council then adopted the revised provisional agenda, as follows:

1. Opening of the session.

2. Organization of the session:
   (a) Election of officers;
   (b) Adoption of the agenda and organization of the work of the session.
3. Credentials of representatives.
4. Policy issues:
   (a) State of the environment;
   (b) Emerging policy issues;
   (c) Coordination and cooperation within and outside the United Nations, including non-governmental organizations;
   (d) Governance of the United Nations Environment Programme.
5. Follow-up of General Assembly resolutions.
6. Results of the General Assembly's consideration of the Secretary-General's report to the Assembly at its fifty-third session on environment and human settlements (A/53/463).
7. Linkages among and support to environmental and environment-related conventions.
8. Preparations for the seventh session of the Commission on Sustainable Development.
9. Programme, the Environment Fund and administrative and other budgetary matters.
10. Provisional agenda, date and place of the twenty-first session of the Council.
11. Other matters.
12. Adoption of the report.
13. Closure of the session.

F. Organization of the work of the session

20. At the 1st meeting of the session, on 1 February 1999, the Governing Council considered and approved the organization of the work of the session in the light of the recommendations contained in the annotated provisional agenda and organization of work (UNEP/GC.20/1/Add.1/Rev.1) and the provisional timetable of meetings suggested by the Executive Director. The timetable of meetings for the session, as approved by the Council, was subsequently circulated as document UNEP/GC.20/L.10.

21. Also at its 1st meeting, the Council decided to establish, in accordance with rule 60 of its rules of procedure, a sessional Committee of the Whole to consider agenda item 9 (Programme, the Environment Fund and administrative and other budgetary matters). The Committee of the Whole would meet concurrently with the plenary and was expected to conclude its work on Wednesday, 3 February 1999. The Council also decided that all other substantive agenda items would be taken up directly in the plenary.

22. It was further decided at the 1st meeting that the Committee of the Whole would be chaired by Mr. Leandro Arellano (Mexico), Vice-President of the Council. In addition, the Council decided that Mr. Jean P. Nsengiyumva (Burundi), Vice-President of the Council, should assist the President in the performance of his functions, particularly by presiding temporarily over plenary meetings.

23. At the 3rd plenary meeting, it was decided to establish an open-ended negotiating group, to be chaired by the President, with a core membership of two representatives from each regional group, in order to discuss draft decisions before they were formally considered by the plenary.

24. At the 6th plenary meeting, it was decided that an open-ended sub-group should be established under the negotiating group, to be chaired by Mr. Werner Obermeyer (South Africa), with the specific mandate to consider the draft decision under agenda item 6 (Results of the General Assembly's consideration of the Secretary-General's report to the Assembly at its fifty-third session on environment and human settlements (A/53/463)), once it had been discussed in the negotiating group, with a view to reaching a consensus text for adoption by the plenary.

G. Report of the high-level segment

25. The report of the high-level segment of the session, held on 4 and 5 February 1999, is contained in annex II to document UNEP/GC.20/48.

H. Report of the Committee of the Whole

26. The Committee of the Whole held eight meetings under the chairmanship of Mr. L. Arellano (Mexico), Vice-President of the Council, from 1 to 4 February 1999, to consider agenda item 9 (Programme, the Environment Fund and administrative and other budgetary matters), as allocated to it by the Council.

27. At its 1st meeting, the Committee of the Whole elected Mr. David Swao (Kenya) to serve as Rapporteur for its meetings.

28. With regard to the organization of work of the Committee of the Whole, it was agreed that a general discussion would be held on agenda item 9. Thereafter, the Committee would have more detailed discussions on specific issues, clustered as follows: (a) environmental assessment and early warning; (b) policy development and law and policy implementation; (c) technology, industry and economics; (d) regional cooperation and representation, environmental conventions and communications and public information; and (e) the Global Environment Facility, management and administration.

29. The Committee agreed to set up an informal, open-ended working group to consider the proposed budget (UNEP/GC.20/22) and other documents relating to administrative and budgetary matters. The group comprised a core membership of Argentina, Australia, Colombia, the Czech Republic, Germany (on behalf of the European Union), Japan, Kenya, Pakistan, Poland, and the Sudan and was coordinated by Mr. Svein Mehli (Norway). The mandate of the working group was to undertake a debate on all documents relating to budgetary and administrative matters and to submit the outcome of its debate to the Committee of the Whole for further decision-making.

30. The report of the Committee of the Whole (UNEP/GC.20/L.12) was taken note of by the Council at the 9th plenary meeting of the session, on 4 February 1999, and is incorporated into chapter VIII of the proceedings of the Governing Council at its twentieth session (UNEP/GC.20/48).

Chapter III
Matters requiring the special attention of the General Assembly and/or the Economic and Social Council

A. Date and place of the twenty-first session of the Governing Council

31. At its 11th plenary meeting, on 5 February 1999, the Governing Council decided that its twenty-first session would be held at Nairobi from 5 to 9 February 2001.

B. Views of the Governing Council on the report of the Secretary-General on environment and human settlements

32. By paragraph 2 of its decision 20/17, the Governing Council requested the Executive Director to convey to the Secretary-General its views, as contained in the decision, on his report on environment and human settlements (A/53/463), which was presented to the General Assembly at its fifty-third session.

C. International conventions and protocols in the field of the environment

33. In paragraph 2 of its decision 20/18 A of 4 February 1999, the Governing Council authorized the Executive Director to transmit, on its behalf, his report on international conventions and protocols in the field of the environment (UNEP/GC.20/18), together with any comments made by delegations thereon, as well as any further information which the secretariat of the United Nations Environment Programme might receive by 31 May 1999, to the General Assembly at its fifty-fourth session, in accordance with General Assembly resolution 3436 (XXX) of 9 December 1975.

D. Contribution of the United Nations Environment Programme to the Commission on Sustainable Development at its seventh session

34. By paragraph 2 of its decision 20/19 of 5 February 1999, the Governing Council requested the Executive Director to submit to the Commission on Sustainable Development at its seventh session, through the Commission's ad hoc inter-sessional working groups, a number of decisions and recommendations relating to oceans and seas, the Global Programme of Action for the Protection of the Marine Environment from Land-based Activities, sustainable tourism, small island developing States, and changing production and consumption patterns (decisions 20/19 A to E), together with the reports of the Executive Director and the comments made thereon at the twentieth session of the Governing Council. Those decisions are contained in the annex to the present report, but the paragraphs of particular relevance to the Commission on Sustainable Development and the General Assembly are highlighted in paragraphs 35 to 39 below.

35. In paragraph 5 of its decision 20/19 A, the Governing Council called upon the Commission on Sustainable Development at its seventh session to promote significantly enhanced coordination and improved institutional arrangements within the United Nations system on activities concerning the marine environment, especially through the work of the Oceans and Coastal Areas Subcommittee of the Administrative Committee on Coordination, and make the work of the Subcommittee transparent to Governments.

36. In paragraph 1 (c) of decision 20/19 B, the Council recommended that the Commission on Sustainable Development should consider how to promote the early implementation of the Global Programme of Action for the Protection of the Marine Environment from Land-based Activities as one of the components of implementing chapter 17 of Agenda 21 and to address recommendations to the appropriate United Nations agencies, bodies and programmes.

37. In paragraph 4 of decision 20/19 C, the Council invited the Commission on Sustainable Development to call upon Governments to integrate consideration of sustainable tourism in their national sustainable development strategies, and into relevant multilateral environmental conventions.

38. In decision 20/19 D, the Council, *inter alia*, welcomed the reports of the regional intergovernmental meetings held by small island developing States in 1998 and invited the Commission on Sustainable Development to give consideration to the outcomes of the meetings. It also urged the Executive Director to complete work on state-of-the-environment assessments in time for the seventh session of the Commission on Sustainable Development and the special session of the United Nations General Assembly on the review of the Barbados Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States.

39. In paragraph 7 of its decision 20/19 E, the Council stressed that the United Nations Environment Programme had an important role to play in ensuring that the overriding issue of sustainable production and consumption patterns was duly taken into account within the different themes under the work programme of the Commission on Sustainable Development.

E. Convention on the Prior Informed Consent Procedure for Certain Hazardous Chemicals and Pesticides in International Trade

40. In paragraph 3 of its decision 20/22 of 4 February 1999, the Council recommended that the General Assembly endorse the institutional linkage between the United Nations Environment Programme and the Rotterdam Convention on the Prior Informed Consent Procedure for Certain Hazardous Chemicals and Pesticides in International Trade, as called for by the Convention and authorized by the Governing Council in its decision SS.V/5 of 22 May 1998, through which the Executive Director provided secretariat services jointly with the Director-General of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations.

F. Regular budget funding for the United Nations Office at Nairobi

41. By section II, paragraph 7, of its decision 20/31 of 4 February 1999, the Governing Council noted with concern the large discrepancy in the amount of funding provided from the United Nations regular budget to the United Nations Office at Nairobi, in relation to that provided to the United Nations Office at Vienna and the United Nations Office at Geneva, and appealed to the General Assembly at its fifty-fourth session to positively consider a substantial increase in the regular budget allocation to the administration of the United Nations Office at Nairobi in the context of the regular budget for the United Nations for the biennium 2000–2001.

Chapter IV
Adoption of decisions[2]

Global Environment Outlook (decision 20/1)

42. At the 9th meeting of the session, on 4 February 1999, the Governing Council had before it a draft decision on this subject (UNEP/GC.20/L.1/Rev.1 and Corr.1, draft decision 1), which had been prepared by the Negotiating Group on the basis of draft decision 1 in document UNEP/GC.20/L.1, submitted by the Committee of Permanent Representatives.

43. The draft decision was adopted by consensus.

Environmental situation in the occupied Palestinian and other Arab territories (decision 20/2)

44. At the same meeting, the Governing Council had before it a draft decision on this subject (UNEP/GC.20/L.1/Rev.1 and Corr.1, draft decision 2), which had been prepared by the Negotiating Group on the basis of a draft submitted by the Sudan and Morocco (on behalf of the Group of Arab States), which superseded an earlier draft decision (UNEP/GC.20/L.1, decision 2), submitted by the Committee of Permanent Representatives.

45. The draft decision was adopted by consensus.

46. Following the adoption of the decision, the representative of the Islamic Republic of Iran stated that his delegation's acceptance of the decision should in no way be construed as recognition of the State of Israel on the part of his Government.

Programme for the development and periodic review of environmental law beyond the year 2000 (decision 20/3)

47. At the 6th meeting of the session, on 3 February 1999, the Governing Council had before it a draft decision on this subject (UNEP/GC.20/L.2/Rev.1), which had been prepared by the Negotiating Group on the basis of draft decision UNEP/GC.20/L.2, submitted by the Committee of Permanent Representatives.

48. The draft decision was adopted by consensus.

49. Following the adoption of the decision, the representative of Turkey said that Turkey still maintained its reservations concerning the study on dispute avoidance and dispute settlement in international environmental law (UNEP/GC.20/INF/16), which was referred to in paragraph 1 of the decision.

Promotion of access to information, public participation in decision-making and access to justice in environmental matters (decision 20/4)

50. At the 9th meeting of the session, the Governing Council had before it a draft decision on this subject (UNEP/GC.20/L.2/Add.1/Rev.1, draft decision 1), which had been prepared by the Negotiating Group on the basis of draft decision 1 in document UNEP/GC.20/L.2/Add.1, submitted by the Committee of Permanent Representatives.

51. The draft decision was adopted by consensus.

Reform of INFOTERRA to ensure better access to environmental information (decision 20/5)

52. At the same meeting, the Governing Council had before it a draft decision on this subject (UNEP/GC.20/L.2/Add.1/Rev.1, draft decision 2), which had been prepared by the Negotiating Group on the basis of draft decision 2 in document UNEP/GC.20/L.2/Add.1, submitted by the Committee of Permanent Representatives.

53. The draft decision was adopted by consensus.

Policy and advisory services of the United Nations Environment Programme in key areas of institution-building (decision 20/6)

54. At the 11th meeting of the session, on 5 February 1999, the Governing Council had before it a draft decision on this subject (UNEP/GC.20/L.3/Rev.1, draft decision 1), which had been prepared by the Negotiating Group on the basis of draft decision 1 in document UNEP/GC.20/L.3, submitted by the Committee of Permanent Representatives.

55. The draft decision was adopted by consensus.

Global Environment Facility (decision 20/7)

56. At the same meeting, the Governing Council had before it a draft decision on this subject (UNEP/GC.20/L.3/Rev.1, draft decision 2), which had been prepared by the Negotiating Group on the basis of draft decision 2 in document UNEP/GC.20/L.3, submitted by the Committee of Permanent Representatives.

57. The draft decision was adopted by consensus.

Further improvement of the international response to environmental emergencies (decision 20/8)

58. At the same meeting, the Governing Council had before it a draft decision on this subject (UNEP/GC.20/L.3/Rev.1, draft decision 3), which had been prepared by the Negotiating Group on the basis of draft decision 3 in document UNEP/GC.20/L.3, submitted by the Committee of Permanent Representatives.

59. The draft decision was adopted by consensus.

The role of women in environment and development (decision 20/9)

60. At the same meeting, the Governing Council had before it a draft decision on this subject (UNEP/GC.20/L.3/Rev.1, draft decision 4), which had been prepared by the Negotiating Group on the basis of draft

decision 4 in document UNEP/GC.20/L.3, submitted by the Committee of Permanent Representatives.

61. The draft decision was adopted by consensus.

Land degradation: support for the implementation of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, particularly in Africa (decision 20/10)

62. At the same meeting, the Governing Council had before it a draft decision on this subject (UNEP/GC.20/L.3/Rev.1, draft decision 5), which had been prepared by the Negotiating Group on the basis of draft decision 5 in document UNEP/GC.20/L.3, submitted by the Committee of Permanent Representatives.

63. The draft decision was adopted by consensus.

Support for cooperation between the Council of Arab Ministers Responsible for the Environment and the United Nations Environment Programme through the regional offices for West Asia and Africa (decision 20/11)

64. At the same meeting, the Governing Council had before it a draft decision on this subject (UNEP/GC.20/L.3/Rev.1, draft decision 6), which had been prepared by the Negotiating Group on the basis of a draft submitted by the Sudan and Morocco (on behalf of the Group of Arab States).

65. The draft decision was adopted by consensus.

Implementation of the environmental dimension of sustainable development within the United Nations system (decision 20/12)

66. At the same meeting, the Governing Council had before it a draft decision on this subject (UNEP/GC.20/L.3/Rev.1, draft decision 7), which had been prepared by the Negotiating Group on the basis of a draft submitted by Germany (on behalf of the European Union).

67. The draft decision was adopted by consensus.

Inter-Agency Environment Coordination Group and the system-wide strategy in the field of the environment (decision 20/13)

68. At the same meeting, the Governing Council had before it a draft decision on this subject (UNEP/GC.20/L.3/Add.1/Rev.1), which had been prepared by the Negotiating Group on the basis of draft decision UNEP/GC.20/L.3/Add.1, submitted by the Committee of Permanent Representatives.

69. The secretariat introduced a number of technical corrections to the draft decision.

70. The draft decision, with the technical corrections introduced by the secretariat, was adopted by consensus.

Report on the work of the subsidiary bodies of the Governing Council (decision 20/14)

71. At the 9th meeting of the session, the Governing Council had before it a draft decision on this subject (UNEP/GC.20/L.7/Rev.1, draft decision 1), which had been prepared by the Negotiating Group on the basis of draft decision 1 in document UNEP/GC.20/L.7, submitted by the Committee of Permanent Representatives.

72. The draft decision was adopted by consensus.

Assessment of the functioning of the secretariat of the United Nations Environment Programme (decision 20/15)

73. At the same meeting, the Governing Council had before it a draft decision on this subject (UNEP/GC.20/L.7/Rev.1, draft decision 2), which had been prepared by the Negotiating Group on the basis of draft decision 2 in document UNEP/GC.20/L.7, submitted by the Committee of Permanent Representatives.

74. The draft decision was adopted by consensus.

Issues arising from the resolutions of the General Assembly at its fifty-second and fifty-third sessions and at its nineteenth special session specifically calling for action by the United Nations Environment Programme (decision 20/16)

75. At the 6th meeting of the session, the Governing Council had before it a draft decision on this subject (UNEP/GC.20/L.8/Rev.1), which had been prepared by the Negotiating Group on the basis of draft decision UNEP/GC.20/L.8, submitted by the Committee of Permanent Representatives.

76. The draft decision was adopted by consensus.

Views of the Governing Council on the report of the Secretary-General on environment and human settlements (decision 20/17)

77. At the 11th meeting of the session, the Governing Council had before it a draft decision on this subject

(UNEP/GC.20/L.14), which had been prepared by the Negotiating Group on the basis of a draft submitted by the Bureau, which superseded an earlier draft on the same subject submitted by the Committee of Permanent Representatives (UNEP/GC.20/L.9).

78. The secretariat introduced a number of technical corrections to the draft decision.

79. The draft decision, with the technical corrections introduced by the secretariat, was adopted by consensus.

Environmental conventions (decisions 20/18 A and B)

Status of international conventions and protocols in the field of the environment (decision 20/18 A)

80. At the 9th meeting of the session, the Governing Council had before it a draft decision on this subject (UNEP/GC.20/L.6/Rev.1, draft decision A), which had been prepared by the Negotiating Group on the basis of draft decision A in document UNEP/GC.20/L.6, submitted by the Committee of Permanent Representatives.

81. The draft decision was adopted by consensus.

Strengthening the role of the United Nations Environment Programme in promoting collaboration among multilateral environmental conventions and in providing programmatic support to multilateral environmental conventions (decision 20/18 B)

82. At the same meeting, the Governing Council had before it a draft decision on this subject (UNEP/GC.20/L.6/Rev.1, draft decision B), which had been prepared by the Negotiating Group on the basis of draft decision B in document UNEP/GC.20/L.6, submitted by the Committee of Permanent Representatives.

83. The draft decision was adopted by consensus.

Contribution of the United Nations Environment Programme to the Commission on Sustainable Development at its seventh session (decision 20/19)

84. At the 11th meeting of the session, the Governing Council had before it a draft decision on this subject (UNEP/GC.20/L.4/Rev.1), which had been prepared by the Negotiating Group on the basis of draft decision UNEP/GC.20/L.4, submitted by the Committee of Permanent Representatives.

85. The secretariat introduced a number of technical corrections to the draft decision.

86. The draft decision, with the technical corrections introduced by the secretariat, was adopted by consensus.

Establishment of a regional seas programme for the East Central Pacific (decision 20/20)

87. At the 9th meeting of the session, the Governing Council had before it a draft decision on this subject (UNEP/GC.20/L.5, draft decision 5), which had been approved by the Committee of the Whole on the basis of draft decision 5 in document UNEP/GC.20/L.5/Rev.1, submitted by the Committee of Permanent Representatives, as amended by Canada, Mexico and the United States of America.

88. The draft decision was adopted by consensus.

Coral reefs (decision 20/21)

89. At the same meeting, the Governing Council had before it a draft decision on this subject (UNEP/GC.20/L.5/Rev.1, draft decision 6), which had been approved by the Committee of the Whole on the basis of a draft submitted by Australia, France, Jamaica, Japan, Mexico and the United States of America.

90. The draft decision was adopted by consensus.

Outcome of the Conference of Plenipotentiaries on the Convention on the Prior Informed Consent Procedure for Certain Hazardous Chemicals and Pesticides in International Trade (decision 20/22)

91. At the same meeting, the Governing Council had before it a draft decision on this subject (UNEP/GC.20/L.5/Rev.1, draft decision 7), which had been approved by the Committee of the Whole on the basis of draft decision 7 in document UNEP/GC.20/L.5, submitted by the Committee of Permanent Representatives.

92. The draft decision was adopted by consensus.

Chemicals management (decision 20/23)

93. At the same meeting, the Governing Council had before it a draft decision on this subject (UNEP/GC.20/L.5/Add.1/Rev.1, draft decision 11), which had been approved by the Committee of the Whole on the basis of draft decision 11 in document UNEP/GC.20/L.5/Add.1, submitted by the Committee of Permanent Representatives, as amended by the United States of America.

94. The secretariat introduced a number of technical corrections to the draft decision.

95. The draft decision, with the technical corrections introduced by the secretariat, was adopted by consensus.

International action to protect human health and the environment through measures which will reduce and/ or eliminate emissions and discharges of persistent organic pollutants, including the development of an international legally binding instrument (decision 20/24)

96. At the same meeting, the Governing Council had before it a draft decision on this subject (UNEP/GC.20/L.5/Add.1/Rev.1, draft decision 13), which had been approved by the Committee of the Whole on the basis of draft decision 13 in document UNEP/GC.20/L.5/Add.1, submitted by the Committee of Permanent Representatives.

97. The draft decision was adopted by consensus.

Freshwater (decision 20/25)

98. At the same meeting, the Governing Council had before it a draft decision on this subject (UNEP/GC.20/L.5/Add.1/Rev.1, draft decision 8), which had been approved by the Committee of the Whole on the basis of draft decision 8 in document UNEP/GC.20/L.5/Add.1, submitted by the Committee of Permanent Representatives, as amended by Australia, Japan, Turkey and the United States of America.

99. During the approval of the draft decision in the Committee of the Whole, the representative of Ethiopia had expressed a reservation concerning paragraph 2.

100. The secretariat introduced a number of technical corrections to the draft decision.

101. The draft decision, with the technical corrections introduced by the secretariat, was adopted by consensus.

Biosafety (decision 20/26)

102. At the same meeting, the Governing Council had before it a draft decision on this subject (UNEP/GC.20/L.5/Add.1/Rev.1, draft decision 9), which had been approved by the Committee of the Whole on the basis of draft decision 9 in document UNEP/GC.20/L.5/Add.1, submitted by the Committee of Permanent Representatives, as amended by Austria, Canada and Germany (on behalf of the European Union).

103. The secretariat introduced a number of technical corrections to the draft decision.

104. The draft decision, with the technical corrections introduced by the secretariat, was adopted by consensus.

Support to Africa (decision 20/27)

105. At the same meeting, the Governing Council had before it a draft decision on this subject (UNEP/GC.20/L.5/Add.1/Rev.1, draft decision 10), which had been approved by the Committee of the Whole on the basis of draft decision 10 in document UNEP/GC.20/L.5/Add.1, submitted by the Committee of Permanent Representatives, as amended by Germany (on behalf of the European Union).

106. The draft decision was adopted by consensus.

Promoting interlinkages among global environmental issues and human needs (decision 20/28)

107. At the same meeting, the Governing Council had before it a draft decision on this subject (UNEP/GC.20/L.5/Add.1/Rev.1, draft decision 12), which had been approved by the Committee of the Whole on the basis of draft decision 12 in document UNEP/GC.20/L.5/Add.1, submitted by the Committee of Permanent Representatives, as amended by Germany (on behalf of the European Union).

108. The draft decision was adopted by consensus.

Policy and advisory services of the United Nations Environment Programme in the key area of economics, trade and financial services (decision 20/29)

109. At the same meeting, the Governing Council had before it a draft decision on this subject (UNEP/GC.20/L.5/Add.1/Rev.1, draft decision 14), which had been approved by the Committee of the Whole on the basis of draft decision 14 in document UNEP/GC.20/L.5/Add.1, submitted by the Committee of Permanent Representatives.

110. The draft decision was adopted by consensus.

Mercure satellite communications systems (decision 20/30)

111. At the same meeting, the Governing Council had before it a draft decision on this subject (UNEP/GC.20/L.5/Add.1/Rev.1, draft decision 7), which had been approved by the Committee of the Whole

on the basis of draft decision 7 in document UNEP/GC.20/L.5/Add.1, submitted by the Committee of Permanent Representatives, as amended by Cuba, Kenya, Switzerland and the United States of America.

112. The draft decision was adopted by consensus.

Proposed programme budget of the United Nations Environment Programme: revised requirements for the biennium 1998–1999 and proposed requirements for the biennium 2000–2001 (decision 20/31)

113. At the same meeting, the Governing Council had before it a draft decision on this subject (UNEP/GC.20/L.5/Add.1/Rev.1, draft decision 3), which had been approved by the Committee of the Whole on the basis of draft decision 3 in document UNEP/GC.20/L.5/Add.1, submitted by the Committee of Permanent Representatives, as amended by the working group on the budget.

114. Following the approval of the draft decision by the Committee of the Whole, the representative of Sweden, speaking on behalf of the European Union and requesting that his statement be included in the report of the Committee, referred to document UNEP/GC.20/INF/5 and said that, apparently, the new $2 million from the regular budget for the United Nations Office at Nairobi would not mean a decrease of $2 million in the contributions from both the Environment Fund and the UNCHS (Habitat) budget. It seemed that the increase of $2 million would ease the burden of the Environment Fund budget, but not of the budget for the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (UNCHS) (Habitat). Such a case would represent a difficult issue during the May meeting of the UNCHS (Habitat) Commission. He also sought an explanation of how the new $2 million would affect the income and expenditure side of the budget of the United Nations Office at Nairobi, in relation to the UNEP and UNCHS (Habitat) budgets. In addition, he sought clarification concerning the upgrading of several positions in the budget proposal for the Office, bearing in mind the constant urging by the Governing Council and the Committee of Permanent Representatives to reduce administrative costs.

115. In reply, the Chief of Administration of the United Nations Office at Nairobi indicated that, according to document UNEP/GC.20/INF/5, the budget estimates of the administration of the Office for the biennium 2000–2001 provided for a reduction, before recosting, in the extrabudgetary resource requirements to be covered by UNEP and UNCHS (Habitat) of $3.96 million or 23.6 per cent. Out of that figure, a reduction of $2 million was attributable to an increase in the regular budget allocations to the United Nations Office at Nairobi in the same amount. For distributing those $2 million savings between UNEP and UNCHS (Habitat) extrabudgetary funds, an agreed cost-sharing formula of 75 to 25 had been applied. Thus, the UNCHS (Habitat) share was approximately $0.5 million before recosting. With respect to the upgrading of several positions, as contained in the budget proposal for the Office, the promotions in question were based on the evaluation of the formal job descriptions and duties involved, and brought the positions concerned to the same level as similar positions at other United Nations duty stations.

116. The secretariat introduced a number of technical corrections to the draft decision.

117. The draft decision, with the technical corrections introduced by the secretariat, was adopted by consensus.

Report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions on the Environment Fund budgets: revised proposals for 1998–1999 and proposals for 2000–2001 (decision 20/32)

118. At the same meeting, the Governing Council had before it a draft decision on this subject (UNEP/GC.20/L.5/Add.1/Rev.1, draft decision 2), which had been approved by the Committee of the Whole on the basis of draft decision 2 in document UNEP/GC.20/L.5/Add.1, submitted by the Committee of Permanent Representatives, as amended by the working group on the budget.

119. The draft decision was adopted by consensus.

Stable, adequate and predictable funding for the United Nations Environment Programme (decision 20/33)

120. At the same meeting, the Governing Council had before it a draft decision on this subject (UNEP/GC.20/L.5/Add.1/Rev.1, draft decision 4), which had been approved by the Committee of the Whole on the basis of draft decision 4 in document UNEP/GC.20/L.5/Add.1, submitted by the Committee of Permanent Representatives, as amended by the working group on the budget and by Australia and Japan.

121. The draft decision was adopted by consensus.

Management of trust funds and counterpart contributions (decision 20/34)

122. At the same meeting, the Governing Council had before it a draft decision on this subject (UNEP/GC.20/L.5/Add.1/Rev.1, draft decision 5), which had been approved by the Committee of the Whole on the basis of draft decision 5 in document UNEP/GC.20/L.5/Add.1, submitted by the Committee of Permanent Representatives.

123. The draft decision was adopted by consensus.

The cost of administering trust funds and counterpart contributions (decision 20/35)

124. At the same meeting, the Governing Council had before it a draft decision on this subject (UNEP/GC.20/L.5/Add.1/Rev.1, draft decision 6), which had been approved by the Committee of the Whole on the basis of draft decision 6 in document UNEP/GC.20/L.5/Add.1, submitted by the Committee of Permanent Representatives.

125. The draft decision was adopted by consensus.

Environment Fund: financial report and audited accounts for the biennium 1996–1997 ended 31 December 1997 (decision 20/36)

126. At the same meeting, the Governing Council had before it a draft decision on this subject (UNEP/GC.20/L.5/Add.1/Rev.1, draft decision 15), which had been approved by the Committee of the Whole on the basis of the action suggested by the Executive Director in his note on the subject (UNEP/GC.20/24).

127. The draft decision was adopted by consensus.

Revision of the Financial Rules of the Fund of the United Nations Environment Programme and of the General Procedures Governing the Operations of the Environment Fund (decision 20/37)

128. At the same meeting, the Governing Council had before it a draft decision on this subject (UNEP/GC.20/L.5/Rev.1, draft decision 1), which had been approved by the Committee of the Whole on the basis of draft decision 1 in document UNEP/GC.20/L.5, submitted by the Committee of Permanent Representatives.

129. The draft decision was adopted by consensus.

Report on the status of implementation of the recommendations contained in the report of the Office of Internal Oversight Services (decision 20/38)

130. At the same meeting, the Governing Council had before it a draft decision on this subject (UNEP/GC.20/L.5/Add.1/Rev.1, draft decision 1), which had been approved by the Committee of the Whole on the basis of draft decision 1 in document UNEP/GC.20/L.5/Add.1, submitted by the Committee of Permanent Representatives.

131. The draft decision was adopted by consensus.

Functioning of the regional offices and proposed measures for the strengthening of regionalization and decentralization (decision 20/39)

132. At the same meeting, the Governing Council had before it a draft decision on this subject (UNEP/GC.20/L.5/Rev.1, decision 2), which had been approved by the Committee of the Whole on the basis of draft decision 2 in document UNEP/GC.20/L.5, submitted by the Committee of Permanent Representatives.

133. The draft decision was adopted by consensus.

Functioning of the specialized offices of the United Nations Environment Programme (decision 20/40)

134. At the same meeting, the Governing Council had before it a draft decision on this subject (UNEP/GC.20/L.5/Rev.1, draft decision 3), which had been approved by the Committee of the Whole on the basis of draft decision 3 in document UNEP/GC.20/L.5, submitted by the Committee of Permanent Representatives, as amended by Germany (on behalf of the European Union) and Zimbabwe.

135. The draft decision was adopted by consensus.

Functioning of the Ombudsman Unit (decision 20/41)

136. At the same meeting, the Governing Council had before it a draft decision on this subject (UNEP/GC.20/L.5/Rev.1, draft decision 8), which had been approved by the Committee of the Whole on the basis of draft decision 8 in document UNEP/GC.20/L.5, submitted by the Committee of Permanent Representatives, as amended by the working group on the budget.

137. The draft decision was adopted by consensus.

Other decisions

Provisional agenda, date and place of the twenty-first session of the Governing Council

138. At the 11th meeting of the session, the Governing Council had before it a proposal by the Bureau concerning the provisional agenda, date and place of the twenty-first session of the Council (UNEP/GC.20/L.13).

139. The representative of Germany introduced an oral amendment to item 7 of the provisional agenda proposed by the Bureau.

140. The proposal of the Bureau, as orally amended by the representative of Germany, was adopted by consensus.

141. During the adoption of the proposal, the representative of Colombia said that, while he agreed that the twenty-first session of the Governing Council could be of five days' duration, there was a need to consider the possibility of reverting to two-week sessions, as one week did not provide sufficient time to consider all the issues.

142. The representative of Burundi stressed the need to adhere to the six-week rule for the circulation of pre-session documentation, as a one-week session was too short to review all the documents in detail.

Membership of the High-level Committee of Ministers and Officials

143. At the same meeting, the Secretary of the Governing Council announced that the following States had been nominated by their respective regional groups to serve as members of the High-level Committee of Ministers and Officials for a two-year term, except as otherwise indicated, in accordance with paragraph (b) of Governing Council decision 19/32 of 4 April 1997: Algeria, Argentina, Bangladesh, Brazil, Burundi, Canada, China, Congo, Cuba, Denmark (for 2000 only), Finland (for 1999 only), France, Germany, Greece, India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Iraq, Jamaica, Japan, Kenya, Mexico, Morocco, Nigeria, Peru, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Russian Federation, Senegal, Slovakia, Switzerland, Thailand, Turkey, Uganda, Zambia and Zimbabwe.

144. The Governing Council decided to elect by acclamation as members of the High-level Committee the States nominated by the regional groups.

Notes

[1] The membership of the Governing Council was determined by elections held at the 68th plenary meeting of the fiftieth session of the General Assembly, held on 21 November 1995, and the 56th plenary meeting of the fifty-second session, held on 26 November 1997 (decisions 50/308 and 52/315).

[2] For the text of the decisions adopted by the Governing Council at its twentieth session, see the annex to the present report.

Annex

Decisions adopted by the Governing Council at its twentieth session

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20/11	Support for cooperation between the Council of Arab Ministers Responsible for the Environment and the United Nations Environment Programme through the regional offices for West Asia and Africa	5 February 1999	22
20/12	Implementation of the environmental dimension of sustainable development within the United Nations system	5 February 1999	23
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20/1
Global Environment Outlook

The Governing Council,

Having considered the progress report of the Executive Director on the Global Environment Outlook process,[1]

1. *Notes with appreciation* the broad participatory approach undertaken to prepare the second Global Environment Outlook report;

2. *Urges* Governments and the Executive Director to take into account the findings and recommendations of the second Global Environment Outlook report in the development and implementation of their environmental assessment, management actions, policies and programmes;

3. *Requests* the Executive Director to submit to the Governing Council at its twenty-first session a Global Environment Outlook user profile and qualitative analysis of the actual use of the first and second Global Environment Outlook reports and the Global Environment Outlook process, together with a proposal for an optimal frequency and production schedule for future Global Environment Outlook and related reports;

4. *Also requests* the Executive Director to produce, in close collaboration with Governments, United Nations agencies and bodies, and collaborating and associated centres and experts, a third Global Environment Outlook report in the form of a "30 Years After Stockholm" report, to be published in 2002, following the full participatory Global Environment Outlook approach;

5. *Further requests* the Executive Director to actively collaborate with the United Nations Development Programme, the World Bank, the World Resources Institute and other relevant institutions in the preparation of the next report in the *World Resources* series, to be published in December 2000, which will focus on global ecosystems conditions and trends and promoting the concept of a comprehensive science-based assessment of the world's ecosystems, and to simultaneously produce an expert report on policy issues and responses to changes in the ecosystems dealt with in the 2000 *World Resources* report;

6. *Urges* major actors in data compilation and in global report production, such as the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, the United Nations Statistical Office, the United Nations regional commissions, the United Nations Development Programme, the World Bank and the World Resources Institute, to collaborate in the production and use of a common data and knowledge base, comprising indicators, models, scenarios and expert systems, in order to avoid duplication, save costs and ensure that global reports are mutually supportive. Each agency would thus approach sustainable development from its particular perspective, while taking advantage of the information in the other reports to obtain a complete picture of sustainable development.

9th meeting
4 February 1999

20/2
Environmental situation in the occupied Palestinian and other Arab territories

The Governing Council,

Recalling its decisions 14/11 of 18 June 1987, 15/8 of 25 May 1989, 16/13 of 31 May 1991, 17/31 of 21 May 1993, 18/11 of 26 May 1995 and 19/8 of 7 February 1997, on the environmental situation in the occupied Palestinian and other Arab territories,

Having considered the progress report of the Executive Director on the environmental situation in the occupied Palestinian and other Arab territories,[2]

1. *Welcomes* the activities which the United Nations Environment Programme is undertaking in association with the Office of the United Nations Special Coordinator in the Occupied Territories in the occupied Palestinian and other Arab territories, including those under the control of the Palestinian Authority;

2. *Requests* the Executive Director to continue participating in the activities of the multilateral working groups of the Middle East peace process, as well as in those of the United Nations Special Coordinator in the Occupied Territories, in order to ensure that environmental concerns are given due priority;

3. *Expresses its concern* regarding the continuing environmental degradation in the occupied Palestinian and other Arab territories, including those under the control of the Palestinian Authority;

4. *Requests* the Executive Director to prepare a comprehensive report on the environmental situation in the occupied Palestinian and other Arab territories, including those under the control of the Palestinian Authority, in keeping with the above-mentioned decisions of the Governing Council, and also requests him to present the report to the Governing Council at its twenty-first session.

9th meeting
4 February 1999

20/3

Programme for the development and periodic review of environmental law beyond the year 2000

The Governing Council,

Having considered the report of the Executive Director on the programme for the development and periodic review of environmental law beyond the year 2000,[3]

1. *Takes note with appreciation* of the progress made in the further implementation of the Programme for the Development and Periodic Review of Environmental Law for the 1990s,[4] including the recently concluded study on dispute avoidance and dispute settlement in international environmental law;[5]

2. *Requests* the Executive Director to undertake a process for the preparation of a new programme for the development and periodic review of environmental law, in consultation with Governments and relevant organizations, and, as part of that process, to convene in the year 2000 a meeting of senior government officials expert in environmental law;

3. *Authorizes* the Executive Director to continue to use the current Programme for the Development and Periodic Review of Environmental Law as strategic guidance for the work of the United Nations Environment Programme in the field of environmental law until a new programme is adopted by the Council and, in that connection, authorizes him to assist, upon request, Governments and organizations in developing international environmental agreements;

4. *Requests* the Executive Director to continue to assist, upon request, developing countries and countries with economies in transition in strengthening national environmental legislation and institutions;

5. *Also requests* the Executive Director to report on the outcome of the implementation of the present decision to the Council at its twenty-first session.

6th meeting
3 February 1999

20/4

Promotion of access to information, public participation in decision-making and access to justice in environmental matters

The Governing Council,

Recalling principle 10 of the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development,[6] as well as chapters 23 to 32 of Agenda 21,[7]

Affirming its commitment to promoting access to information and participation of all concerned citizens at the relevant levels,

Taking note of the various activities at the national and regional levels to promote enhanced participation by the public and major groups, including the Convention on Access to Information, Public Participation in Decision-making and Access to Justice in Environmental Matters,[8]

Recalling programme area G (Environmental awareness, education, information and public participation) of the Programme for the Development and Periodic Review of Environmental Law for the 1990s,[4]

Having considered the report of the Executive Director on promotion of access to information, public participation in decision-making and access to justice in environmental matters,[9]

1. *Requests* the Executive Director, in consultation with Governments and relevant international organizations, to seek appropriate ways of building capacity in and enhancing access to environmental information, public participation in decision-making and access to justice in environmental matters;

2. *Requests* the Executive Director to study, in this regard, various models of national legislation, policies and guidelines;

3. *Also requests* the Executive Director to submit a report on the outcome of the above-mentioned activities to the Governing Council at its twenty-first session.

9th meeting
4 February 1999

20/5

Reform of INFOTERRA to ensure better public access to environmental information

The Governing Council,

Having considered the report of the Executive Director on the reform of INFOTERRA to ensure better public access to environmental information,[10]

1. *Takes note* of the recommendations of the United Nations Environment Programme/INFOTERRA Advisory Committee on the reform of the global environmental information exchange network, as contained in the

Washington Statement of the Advisory Committee[11] and summarized in the report of the Executive Director;

2. *Underscores* the importance of the public-right-to-know principle, a role which is inextricably linked with public participation in environmental decision-making;

3. *Notes* the new role of INFOTERRA as the United Nations Environment Programme's global advocate of the public-right-to-know principle, to be carried out through a new structure governing the future operations of INFOTERRA;

4. *Also notes* the need to secure the participation of a diverse range of stakeholders drawn from government, non-governmental organizations, academia, centres of excellence, professional bodies and business enterprises in a partnership arrangement aimed at providing an integrated environmental information service at the national level, and encourages Governments to establish these partnerships under a formal agreement with the United Nations Environment Programme;

5. *Recognizes* the important synergy between the revitalized INFOTERRA and a new assessment strategy of the United Nations Environment Programme for the purpose of facilitating the flow of information between the organization and its partners;

6. *Requests* the Executive Director to develop, in close cooperation with relevant partners, a concrete plan for establishing a restructured INFOTERRA;

7. *Also requests* the Executive Director to consult with Governments on the appropriateness of launching in 2000 the United Nations Environment Programme's revitalized INFOTERRA at a global conference of senior government officials and representatives of relevant organizations expert in the field of environmental information services and to seek extrabudgetary resources for it;

8. *Further requests* the Executive Director to report on the outcome of the implementation of the present decision to the Governing Council at its twenty-first session.

9th meeting
4 February 1999

20/6
Policy and advisory services of the United Nations Environment Programme in key areas of institution-building

The Governing Council,

Having considered the report of the Executive Director on policy and advisory services of the United Nations Environment Programme in key areas of institution-building,[12]

Underscoring that it is essential in institution-building aiming at sustainable development to enhance access to environmental information held by public authorities and participation by all relevant sectors of the society, including the public, in the environmental-decision-making process, in accordance with relevant legislation or arrangements, and urging Governments to do so,

Recognizing the importance of developing environmental laws and regulations as well as judicial and administrative procedures for legal redress and remedy of actions negatively affecting the environment,

1. *Urges* Governments to develop, as appropriate, such environmental laws and regulations, as well as judicial and administrative procedures;

2. *Requests* the Executive Director to strengthen the secretariat to provide policy and advisory services, in particular technical, legal and policy advice, in key areas of institution-building to Governments and regional and subregional institutions dealing with environmental matters, with particular attention to the areas of concentration contained in paragraph 2 of Governing Council decision SS.V/2 of 22 May 1998, with a view to improving access by the public to information on environmental matters and environmental policy instruments;

3. *Also requests* the Executive Director to strengthen cooperation with Governments, other relevant organizations and entities, including the secretariats of international environmental conventions, in activities related to policy and advisory services in key areas of institution-building to ensure that such services are provided to Governments and relevant institutions in a coherent and coordinated manner in order to avoid duplication of efforts and economize on scarce resources.

11th meeting
5 February 1999

20/7
Global Environment Facility

The Governing Council,

Having considered the report of the Executive Director on participation of the United Nations Environment Programme in the work of the Global Environment Facility,[13] as well as the suggested action plan on complementarity between the activities undertaken by the

United Nations Environment Programme under the Global Environment Facility and its programme of work,[14]

1. *Welcomes* the progress made by the Executive Director in strengthening the role of the United Nations Environment Programme in the Global Environment Facility, pursuant to Governing Council decision 19/12 of 7 February 1997 and the Nairobi Declaration on the Role and Mandate of the United Nations Environment Programme,[15] as well as its decisions SS.V/6 and SS.V/7 of 22 May 1998;

2. *Welcomes also* the progress made by the Executive Director in strengthening inter-agency collaboration under the Global Environment Facility, as evidenced by the increased role played by the United Nations Environment Programme in joint Global Environment Facility projects with the United Nations Development Programme and/or the World Bank;

3. *Welcomes further* the conclusion of the Memorandum of Understanding between the United Nations Environment Programme and the United Nations Development Programme on joint collaboration in the Global Environment Facility cross-cutting area of land degradation;

4. *Welcomes* the Executive Director's proposal aimed at establishing strategic partnership between the United Nations Environment Programme and the secretariat of the Global Environment Facility, in addition to the role of the United Nations Environment Programme in the Global Environment Facility,[16] as well as the suggested action plan on complementarity between the activities undertaken by the United Nations Environment Programme under the Global Environment Facility and its programme of work;

5. *Invites* the Council of the Global Environment Facility, in considering the issue of the additionality and complementarity of the core activities of the United Nations Environment Programme with its interventions within the Global Environment Facility, to fully take into account its environmental mandate as contained in the Nairobi Declaration on the Role and Mandate of the United Nations Environment Programme, as well as relevant resolutions of the General Assembly of the United Nations;

6. *Also invites* the Council of the Global Environment Facility to support the efforts of the Executive Director aimed at strengthening the role of the United Nations Environment Programme in the Facility in accordance with its mandate as contained in the Instrument for the Establishment of the Restructured Global Environment Facility;[17]

7. *Requests* the Executive Director to submit the suggested action plan on complementarity between the activities undertaken by the United Nations Environment Programme under the Global Environment Facility and its programme of work to the Council of the Global Environment Facility at its thirteenth meeting, to be held in Washington, D.C. from 5 to 7 May 1999;

8. *Also requests* the Executive Director to present to the Governing Council at its twenty-first session a report on the progress made in the implementation of the present decision.

11th meeting
5 February 1999

20/8

Further improvement of the international response to environmental emergencies

The Governing Council,

Having considered the report of the Executive Director on further improvement of the international response to environmental emergencies,[18]

1. *Expresses its satisfaction* with the constructive collaboration between the United Nations Environment Programme and the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs in strengthening the ability of the United Nations to assist countries, particularly developing countries, affected by environmental emergencies;

2. *Requests* the Executive Director to further enhance such collaboration by strengthening the activities of the Joint Environment Unit of the United Nations Environment Programme and the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs, taking into account the recommendations of the Advisory Group on Environmental Emergencies;

3. *Also requests* the Executive Director, within the mandate of the United Nations Environment Programme, to further focus and strengthen the contribution of its environmental expertise to the coordination of United Nations system-wide responses to natural disasters caused by natural phenomena or natural phenomena coupled with effects of human actions, with a view to providing United Nations coordinated assistance to countries, particularly developing countries, affected by such natural disasters;

4. *Invites* Governments and relevant United Nations agencies, bodies and programmes to continue to cooperate with the Joint Environment Unit of the United Nations Environment Programme and the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs in its efforts to

provide assistance to countries, in particular developing countries, facing environmental emergencies, including natural disasters;

5. *Requests* the Executive Director to develop appropriate linkages between the work of the United Nations Environment Programme on environmental emergencies and its overall work on environmental assessment and early warning;

6. *Urges* Governments and international organizations in a position to do so to contribute to the Trust Fund for Environmental Emergencies;

7. *Requests* the Executive Director to report to Governments on the progress made in the activities of the Joint Environment Unit.

11th meeting
5 February 1999

20/9
The role of women in environment and development

The Governing Council,

Recalling General Assembly resolution 50/203 of 22 December 1995, relating to the implementation of the Beijing Platform for Action of the Fourth World Conference on Women[19] at the national and international levels,

Recalling also its decisions 17/4 of 21 May 1993, 18/6 of 26 May 1995 and 19/7 of 7 February 1997 on the United Nations Environment Programme and the role of women in environment and development,

Having considered the report of the Executive Director on the role of women in environment and development,[20]

1. *Takes note* of the report of the Executive Director on the role of women in environment and development and the progress towards the fulfilment of the commitments made by the United Nations Environment Programme to meet the global priorities for the advancement of women, and the decision of the Executive Director to re-focus the institutional arrangements for gender within the secretariat of the United Nations Environment Programme by hiring a staff member at the Professional level to undertake the actions related to the role of women in environment and development;

2. *Requests* the Executive Director to continue efforts to fulfil the ten commitments made by the United Nations Environment Programme at the Fourth World Conference on Women as its contribution to meet the global priorities for the advancement of women by 2000, and to carry out more activities in the programme of work targeted at women;

3. *Also requests* the Executive Director to strengthen efforts to assist Governments in empowering women to participate in the decision-making process on environmental matters and in providing them with information on the environment;

4. *Further requests* the Executive Director to extend the network of gender focal points to cover all Governments, in particular those of the developing countries and countries with economies in transition and also relevant global non-governmental organizations.

11th meeting
5 February 1999

20/10
Land degradation: support for the implementation of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, particularly in Africa

The Governing Council,

Recalling its decisions 19/17 of February 1997 and SS.V/7 of 22 May 1998,

Having considered the report of the Executive Director[21] on the implementation of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, particularly in Africa,[22]

Recognizing that land degradation is a major problem for many countries, particularly those in Africa,

Recalling that support for Africa is a priority for the United Nations Environment Programme in its work programme for 2000–2001,

Recalling the experience of the United Nations Environment Programme in developing desertification assessments and databases and its two editions of the *World Atlas of Desertification*; its research initiatives and cooperative studies with the Scientific Committee on Problems of the Environment of the International Council of Scientific Unions, its co-sponsorship of the Consultative Group for International Agricultural Research and the numerous joint programmes and studies on desertification with various centres within the Consultative Group and with other United Nations bodies,

Considering the concerns regarding the vulnerability of African soils to the impacts of climate change due to land degradation and desertification as expressed by the Special Consultation of African Ministerial Conference on Environment on the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and its Kyoto Protocol and Multilateral Environmental Agreements, held in Nairobi from 19 to 23 October 1998,[23]

Welcoming the efforts of the United Nations Environment Programme in assisting countries affected by land degradation, in strengthening cooperation and collaboration with other relevant United Nations bodies and agencies and other organizations in the field of land degradation, in developing land-degradation projects as they relate to the focal areas of the Global Environment Facility and the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding with the United Nations Development Programme in the context of these activities, and in assisting Governments in the implementation of the Convention,

1. *Requests* the Executive Director to maintain the capability of the United Nations Environment Programme to respond to global land-degradation issues so as to play its role as Task Manager for chapter 12 of Agenda 21,[7] and in support of the Conference of Parties to the Convention, in particular its Committee on Science and Technology, in the assessment and monitoring of desertification and the enhancement of the scientific and technological knowledge base on land degradation;

2. *Also requests* the Executive Director to give the appropriate priority to promoting support action to combat desertification within the framework of the implementation of the work programme of the United Nations Environment Programme in accordance with Governing Council decision SS.V/7;

3. *Further requests* the Executive Director to assist, upon their request, African countries in the preparation, development and strengthening of action plans drawn up in accordance with articles 9 and 11 of the Convention;

4. *Requests* the Executive Director to continue efforts to secure and enhance support from the Global Environment Facility for providing assistance to countries to carry out activities related to land degradation in view of the interlinkages between land degradation and the focal areas of the Facility;

5. *Requests* the Executive Director to strengthen the coordination and collaboration with relevant United Nations bodies and agencies and other organizations concerned in providing assistance to countries in mitigating land degradation and the implementation of the Convention;

6. *Also requests* the Executive Director to pursue his efforts to strengthen inter-agency collaboration in the field of combating desertification;

7. *Further requests* the Executive Director, in cooperation with other bodies, particularly the Secretariat of the Convention, the Global Mechanism under the Convention and the other implementing agencies of the Global Environment Facility, as well as relevant regional and subregional organizations, to assist countries affected by land degradation in the preparation of land-degradation projects consistent with their national action programmes for financing by the Global Environment Facility and other multilateral and bilateral agencies;

8. *Requests* the Executive Director to take appropriate initiatives to involve the United Nations Environment Programme in the activities of the Global Mechanism of the Convention, and in particular its Facilitation Committee;

9. *Requests* the Executive Director to submit a report on this matter to the Governing Council at its twenty-first session.

11th meeting
5 February 1999

20/11

Support for cooperation between the Council of Arab Ministers Responsible for the Environment and the United Nations Environment Programme through the regional offices for West Asia and Africa

The Governing Council,

Recalling its decision 17/28 of 21 May 1993, in which it requested the Executive Director, *inter alia*, to continue making efforts to link the implementation of the regional programmes of the United Nations Environment Programme in a coordinated manner with other intergovernmental organizations, particularly the United Nations Development Programme and the regional commissions,

Recalling also its decision 16/33 of 31 May 1991, in which it requested the Executive Director, *inter alia*, to promote the identification of ways and means to facilitate access by and transfer of technology to developing countries in respect of cleaner production methods, techniques and technologies,

Recalling further its decision 18/39 of 26 May 1995, requesting support of the goals and aims of the Council of

Arab Ministers Responsible for the Environment and the Regional Office for West Asia,

Recalling Agenda 21,[7] adopted by the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, particularly chapter 34 on the transfer of environmentally sound technology, cooperation and capacity-building, and chapter 38, on international institutional arrangements, as well as section I thereof, on cooperation and implementation at the regional and subregional levels,

Noting paragraph 4 (b) of the Nairobi Declaration,[15] concerning regionalization and decentralization through the increased involvement and participation of regional ministerial councils, complementary to the Programme's headquarters in Nairobi,

Noting also the possibilities of improving and activating environmental activities in the Arab region, within the framework of the priorities of the United Nations Environment Programme,

Expressing its appreciation of the results achieved owing to the cooperation between the United Nations Environment Programme and the Council of Arab Ministers Responsible for the Environment,

Requests the Executive Director to support, within available resources, the goals and aims of the Council of Arab Ministers Responsible for the Environment and the regional offices for West Asia and Africa and to establish an appropriate mechanism with a view to supporting the implementation and coordination of regional programmes in the Arab region.

11th meeting
5 February 1999

20/12

Implementation of the environmental dimension of sustainable development within the United Nations system

The Governing Council,

Recalling the role of the United Nations Environment Programme as the leading environment authority that promotes the coherent implementation of the environmental dimension of sustainable development, as defined by Agenda 21[7] and the Programme for the Further Implementation of Agenda 21,[24] adopted by the General Assembly at its nineteenth special session, and in the Nairobi Declaration on the Role and Mandate of the United Nations Environment Programme,[15] adopted by the Governing Council at its nineteenth session,

1. *Invites* the Executive Director, in close cooperation with relevant United Nations agencies and in recognition of the catalytic nature of its work, to intensify work on the integration of the environmental dimension of sustainable development into United Nations programmes;

2. *Underscores* the need for Governments to positively consider providing extrabudgetary resources in order to further promote the practical application of methodologies for such integration;

3. *Requests* the Executive Director to report on progress achieved to the Governing Council at its next session.

11th meeting
5 February 1999

20/13

Inter-Agency Environment Coordination Group and the system-wide strategy in the field of the environment

The Governing Council,

Noting the report of the Executive Director on developments related to the Inter-Agency Environment Coordination Group and the system-wide strategy in the field of the environment,[25]

Noting further that the Secretary-General of the United Nations has proposed to establish an Environmental Management Group, after consulting with the members of the Administrative Committee on Coordination,

Invites the Executive Director, in the light of the forthcoming decision of the Secretary-General on the establishment of an Environmental Management Group, to consider the need for an inter-agency coordination group and system-wide strategy in the field of the environment and to report thereon to the Governing Council at its twenty-first session.

11th meeting
5 February 1999

20/14

Report on the work of subsidiary bodies of the Governing Council

The Governing Council,

Recalling its decision 19/1 of 7 February 1997 and the Nairobi Declaration on the Role and Mandate of the United Nations Environment Programme annexed thereto,

Recalling also its decision 19/32 of 4 April 1997 on governance of the United Nations Environment Programme,

in which the Governing Council decided, *inter alia*, that the governance structure established by that decision shall be reviewed by the Council at its twenty-first session, with a view to assessing its effectiveness taking into account any relevant results of the reform process of the United Nations system,

Takes note of the reports and the work of the Committee of Permanent Representatives and the High-level Committee of Ministers and Officials undertaken in accordance with their respective mandates.[26]

9th meeting
4 February 1999

20/15

Assessment of the functioning of the secretariat of the United Nations Environment Programme

The Governing Council,

Recalling its decision 19/29 B of 4 April 1997,

1. *Takes note* of the report of the Committee of Permanent Representatives concerning the assessment of the functioning of the secretariat of the United Nations Environment Programme;[27]

2. *Welcomes* the recommendations concerning the functioning of the secretariat of the United Nations Environment Programme contained therein, and urges the Executive Director to take those recommendations into account;

3. *Requests* the Executive Director to keep the Committee of Permanent Representatives informed of the progress made regarding the recommendations.

9th meeting
4 February 1999

20/16

Issues arising from the resolutions of the General Assembly at its fifty-second and fifty-third sessions and nineteenth special session specifically calling for action by the United Nations Environment Programme

The Governing Council,

Takes note of the report of the Executive Director on issues arising from the resolutions of the General Assembly at its fifty-second and fifty-third sessions and at its nineteenth special session specifically calling for action by the United Nations Environment Programme,[28] and the actions indicated therein.

6th meeting
3 February 1999

20/17

Views of the Governing Council on the report of the Secretary-General on environment and human settlements

The Governing Council,

Taking into account that the report of the Secretary-General of the United Nations on environment and human settlements[29] is under consideration in the General Assembly, and also taking into account the request of the Secretary-General to the Governing Council of the United Nations Environment Programme to provide its views thereon,

Recalling the Nairobi Declaration on the Role and Mandate of the United Nations Environment Programme,[15] adopted by the Governing Council at its nineteenth session, which emphasizes that the United Nations Environment Programme has been and must continue to be the principal United Nations body in the field of the environment and that its role is to be the leading global environmental authority that sets the global environmental agenda, that promotes the coherent implementation of the environmental dimension of sustainable development within the United Nations system and that serves as an authoritative advocate for the global environment,

Recalling also its decisions 19/32 of 4 April 1997, on the governance of the United Nations Environment Programme, and SS.V/2 of 22 May 1998, on the revitalization, reform and strengthening of the United Nations Environment Programme, in which it decided, *inter alia*, to review the ongoing reform of the United Nations Environment Programme,

Noting the distinction made by the Secretary-General between recommendations requiring action at the Secretariat level from those requiring decisions and measures at the intergovernmental level,

1. *Responds* to the request of the Secretary-General to the Governing Council, and decides to express its views as follows:

The Governing Council:

(a) *Welcomes* the report of the Secretary-General on environment and human settlements[29] submitted to the General Assembly at its fifty-third session, in which he puts forth the recommendations of the United Nations Task

Force on Environment and Human Settlements on reforming and strengthening United Nations activities in the field of environment and human settlements, and expresses its appreciation for the comprehensive and forward-looking recommendations of the Task Force under the chairmanship of the Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme;

(b) *Notes with appreciation* the intention of the President of the General Assembly that the Assembly, at its current session, consider in a fully open and transparent manner, as soon as possible, the recommendations contained in the report of the Secretary-General on environment and human settlements;[30]

(c) *Takes note* of the recommendations intended for action by intergovernmental bodies relating to linkages among and support to environmental and environment-related conventions; intergovernmental forums; and involvement of major groups, as outlined in part IV of the report of the Secretary-General on environment and human settlements;

(d) *Welcomes* the general thrust of the actions proposed to be taken by the Secretary-General and the Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme at the Secretariat level relating to: inter-agency coordination; linkages among and support to environmental and environment-related conventions; the United Nations Environment Programme, the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat) and the United Nations Office at Nairobi; information, monitoring, assessment and early warning; involvement of major groups; and future initiatives, as outlined in part III of the report of the Secretary-General on environment and human settlements;

(e) *Expresses its support* for the proposal of the Secretary-General regarding the establishment of an Environmental Management Group for the coordination of the environmental and human-settlements activities of the United Nations system, and encourages the Secretary-General to undertake consultations with the members of the Administrative Committee on Coordination to develop its scope, appropriate criteria for membership and working methods in a flexible and cost-effective manner for its expeditious establishment;

(f) *Welcomes* the proposals for the facilitation and support by the United Nations Environment Programme of enhanced coordination among the bureaux and secretariats of environment and environment-related conventions, taking into account the status of the respective convention secretariats and the autonomy of the conferences of the parties to those conventions, and in this regard notes its decision 20/18 B of 4 February 1999, on strengthening the role of the United Nations Environment Programme in promoting collaboration among multilateral environmental conventions and in providing programmatic support to multilateral environmental conventions;

(g) *Expresses its support* for the proposal of the Secretary-General that an annual ministerial-level global environmental forum be instituted and that regular biennial sessions of the Governing Council of the United Nations Environment Programme constitute that forum in the years that the Council meets, and that in alternate years the forum should take the form of the special session of the Governing Council, meeting in different regions as a ministerial-level forum in which participants can gather to review important and emerging policy issues in the field of the environment, and keeping in mind the need to retain the effective and efficient functioning of the governance mechanisms of the United Nations Environment Programme, as well as possible financial implications;

(h) *Welcomes* the recommendations of the Secretary-General on future action-oriented agendas of the Governing Council and the structuring and timing of its meetings in order to enhance coordination with the Commission on Sustainable Development and the conferences of the parties to environmental and environment-related conventions;

(i) *Takes note* of the proposal concerning universal membership of the Governing Council of the United Nations Environment Programme and the ongoing debate in this regard;

(j) *Agrees* with the proposal of the Secretary-General that, particularly in the light of the recommendation to establish an annual ministerial-level forum, the future role of the High-level Committee of Ministers and Officials of the United Nations Environment Programme should be considered;

(k) *Welcomes* the proposals of the Secretary-General on further enhancing the role of the United Nations Environment Programme in providing environmental advocacy, analysis and advice in shaping the priorities and programmes of the Global Environment Facility consistent with the United Nations Environment Programme's envisaged role in the Instrument for the Establishment of the Restructured Global Environment Facility,[17] and in this regard notes its decision 20/7 of 5 February 1999, on the Global Environment Facility;

(l) *Also welcomes* the recommendations concerning the facilitation of coherent approaches to the need to constructively engage non-governmental organizations and

civil society in the work of the United Nations, in the light of the experiences gained in the Habitat II and Commission on Sustainable Development processes;

(m) *Expresses the hope* that its views will assist in further deliberations and an expeditious resolution of this important matter in the competent forums;

2. *Requests* the Executive Director to convey to the Secretary-General the views of the Governing Council of the United Nations Environment Programme as contained in the present decision.

11th meeting
5 February 1999

20/18
Environmental conventions

A. Status of international conventions and protocols in the field of the environment

The Governing Council,

Having considered the report of the Executive Director on international conventions and protocols in the field of the environment,[31]

Recalling its decision 24 (III) of 30 April 1975 and General Assembly resolution 3436 (XXX) of 9 December 1975,

1. *Takes note* of the report of the Executive Director;

2. *Authorizes* the Executive Director to transmit the report, on its behalf, together with any comments made by delegations thereon as well as further information which the secretariat of the United Nations Environment Programme might receive by 31 May 1999, to the General Assembly at its fifty-fourth session, in accordance with Assembly resolution 3436 (XXX);

3. *Calls upon* States that have not yet signed, ratified or acceded to conventions and protocols in the field of the environment to do so;

4. *Calls upon* States and organizations that are in a position to do so to provide the secretariat of the United Nations Environment Programme with information on new conventions and protocols in the field of the environment as well as information on any changes to the status of the existing conventions and protocols in the field of the environment.

9th meeting
4 February 1999

B. Strengthening the role of the United Nations Environment Programme in promoting collaboration among multilateral environmental conventions and in providing programmatic support to multilateral environmental conventions

The Governing Council,

Bearing in mind General Assembly resolutions 47/190 of 22 December 1992, on the report of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, 47/191 of 22 December 1992, on institutional arrangements to follow up the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, and S-19/2 of 28 June 1997, on the Programme for the Further Implementation of Agenda 21,

Bearing in mind also Governing Council decisions 19/1 of 7 February 1997, on the Nairobi Declaration on the Role and Mandate of the United Nations Environment Programme, and SS.V/2 of 22 May 1998, on the revitalization, reform and strengthening of the United Nations Environment Programme,

Having considered the reports of the Executive Director on strengthening the role of the United Nations Environment Programme in promoting collaboration among multilateral environmental conventions,[32] programmatic support of the United Nations Environment Programme to multilateral environmental conventions[33] and promoting interlinkages among global environmental issues and human needs,[34]

Mindful of the importance of promoting interlinkages among multilateral environmental conventions and international processes related thereto, and conscious of the desirability of mitigating fragmentation of international environmental policy-making,

I. Promotion of collaboration among multilateral environmental conventions

1. *Calls upon* Governments that are parties to the multilateral environmental conventions and their conferences of the parties to give due consideration to ways and means to strengthen coherent interlinkages among relevant conventions, including the importance for harmonized procedures for the national reporting envisaged thereunder;

2. *Emphasizes* that the United Nations Environment Programme should intensify its catalytic role to stimulate and support collaboration among multilateral environmental conventions and international processes related thereto with a view to the strengthening of coherent

interlinkages among such conventions and processes in line with the decisions of their respective conferences of the parties;

3. *Affirms* that the United Nations Environment Programme should:

(a) Promote, in cooperation with their respective governing bodies, the strengthening of coherent interlinkages among multilateral environmental conventions and international processes related thereto;

(b) Enhance, in cooperation with their respective governing bodies, the linkages among the various scientific and information monitoring processes that underpin multilateral environmental conventions and international processes related thereto in order to provide a bridge between science, information and policy;

(c) Provide continued substantive support to multilateral environmental conventions and international processes related thereto in accordance with their provisions and the decisions of their conferences of the parties;

4. *Urges* the Executive Director to consult multilateral environmental conventions, through their secretariats, with a view to identifying areas of common interest and opportunities for synergy in line with the decisions taken under those conventions;

5. *Requests* the Executive Director, in cooperation with the respective convention secretariats, to support, and coordinate as appropriate, collaboration and promote interlinkages among multilateral environmental conventions in line with the decisions of their respective conferences of the parties;

II. Programmatic support to multilateral environmental conventions

6. *Requests* the Executive Director to explore with the multilateral environmental conventions, through their secretariats, areas of cooperation and suitable modalities in support of the implementation of the programmes of work of the respective conventions, taking into account the scientific and technical expertise that the United Nations Environment Programme can contribute, in line with the decisions of their respective conferences of the parties;

7. *Encourages* the conferences of parties to multilateral environmental conventions to support the establishment of programmatic interlinkages between the programmes of work of their conventions and the United Nations Environment Programme;

8. *Requests* the Executive Director, upon request, to make available the technical, scientific and legal expertise of the United Nations Environment Programme to assist multilateral environmental conventions in achieving their objectives;

9. *Also requests* the Executive Director, upon request, to further assist developing countries and countries with economies in transition in strengthening their legal and other capacities in implementing multilateral environmental conventions;

10. *Further requests* the Executive Director to submit a report on the progress made in the implementation of the present decision to the Governing Council at its twenty-first session.

9th meeting
4 February 1999

20/19
Contribution of the United Nations Environment Programme to the Commission on Sustainable Development at its seventh session

The Governing Council,

Recalling its decision SS.V/3 of 22 May 1998, on the contribution of the United Nations Environment Programme to the Commission on Sustainable Development at its seventh session,

Recalling also its decision 18/7 of 26 May 1995, on the relationship between the United Nations Environment Programme and the Commission on Sustainable Development, as well as the Programme for the Further Implementation of Agenda 21,[24] in which the General Assembly called upon the United Nations Environment Programme to continue providing support to the Commission on Sustainable Development, *inter alia*, in the form of scientific, technical and policy information and analysis of and advice on global environmental issues,

Having considered the reports of the Executive Director on the activities of the United Nations Environment Programme in connection with the themes on the agenda of the seventh session of the Commission on Sustainable Development,[35]

1. *Requests* the Executive Director to take steps to ensure that in the future the Governing Council has the information required to prepare the views of the United Nations Environment Programme for all sessions of the Commission on Sustainable Development scheduled before its own next session;

2. *Requests* the Executive Director to submit to the Commission on Sustainable Development at its seventh session, through the Commission's ad hoc inter-sessional

working groups, the following decisions and recommendations, together with the reports of the Executive Director and the comments made thereon at the twentieth session of the Governing Council.

11th meeting
5 February 1999

A. Oceans and seas

The Governing Council

1. *Stresses* the need for the United Nations Environment Programme to strengthen the regional seas programme as its central mechanism for implementation of its activities relevant to chapter 17 of Agenda 21,[7] with a focus on the promotion of policy-relevant activities and implementation in cooperation with Governments, intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations and the private sector, and, in this context, invites the Executive Director to identify specific activities for the work of the United Nations Environment Programme in the following areas, taking into account the ongoing work of other international organizations:

(a) Ensuring that environmental considerations are fully taken into account in the activities aimed at promoting integrated management and sustainable development of coastal areas and associated river basins and their living aquatic resources;

(b) Promoting the formulation, adoption and implementation of appropriate technical, institutional, administrative and legal measures contributing to improved protection of marine and coastal environment, including the rational use and conservation of their resources. This work should include the application of the guidelines set forth in the Global Programme of Action for the Protection of the Marine Environment from Land-based Activities[36] for the environmentally sustainable management and use of coastal and marine resources, including their associated drainage basins as basic water-management units;

(c) Facilitating the assessment of the state of the marine and coastal environment, including the trends of changes in that environment and identification of important emerging issues;

(d) Promoting measures for the improved protection of endangered aquatic species, fragile ecosystems, habitats and other ecologically sensitive areas, and for the restoration of damaged systems and areas, as well as pursuing the establishment of new specially protected areas and the expansion of existing ones;

(e) Enhancing the Programme's collaboration with the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations and other organizations in the environmental aspects of sustainable fisheries and fostering closer collaboration with mechanisms and organizations, in particular the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, dealing with fisheries, including aquaculture;

(f) Strengthening and expanding its research, monitoring, observation and assessment activities, particularly in addressing critical uncertainties related to climate change as it may affect the sustainable management of the marine environment;

(g) Preparing and convening, possibly in 2000, a joint high-level meeting of the representatives of the governing bodies of the regional components of the programme to review overall progress and to determine ways and means of enhancing its contribution to the global protection of the marine and coastal environment through regional and interregional cooperation;

(h) Exploring the need and the possibility for an expansion of the regional seas programme to geographical areas not currently covered;

(i) Enhancing linkages and coordination with the secretariats of regional agreements and organizations not under the auspices of the United Nations Environment Programme;

2. *Endorses* the enhanced cooperation of the United Nations Environment Programme with the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, the World Bank, the United Nations Development Programme and other international organizations in support of the International Coral Reef Initiative, and decides to give priority to an assessment of the experiences to date in implementation of the International Coral Reef Initiative programme during its twenty-first session;

3. *Encourages* the member agencies of the Joint Group of Experts on the Scientific Aspects of Marine Environmental Protection to review their terms of reference, composition and methods of work, as a means of enhancing the Group's status as a source of independent, scientific advice on coastal and oceans issues;

4. *Stresses* the need for reliable, accessible and relevant monitoring, and welcomes the Global International Waters Assessment, which will provide for the assessment of the world's large marine ecosystems;

5. *Calls upon* the Commission on Sustainable Development at its seventh session to promote significantly enhanced coordination and improved institutional arrangements within the United Nations system for activities concerning the marine environment, especially through the work of the Oceans and Coastal Areas Subcommittee of the Administrative Committee on Coordination, and to make the work of the Subcommittee transparent to Governments.

11th meeting
5 February 1999

B. Global Programme of Action for the Protection of the Marine Environment from Land-based Activities

The Governing Council,

Having considered the status report of the Executive Director[37] on implementation of the Global Programme of Action for the Protection of the Marine Environment from Land-based Activities,[36]

Recalling General Assembly resolution 51/189 of 16 December 1996, particularly the recommendation that Governments intensify their efforts, within the context of their representation in governing bodies of other agencies and organizations of the United Nations system, to ensure that those agencies and organizations have the mandate and the needed financial and human resources to undertake their responsibilities as lead agencies to coordinate the development of the clearing-house mechanism of the Global Programme of Action for specific pollutant source categories, as defined in resolution 51/189,

1. *Stresses* the need for urgent measures aimed at expediting progress in the implementation of the Global Programme of Action and, in this context:

(a) *Urges* the Executive Director to expeditiously complete the establishment of the Hague Coordination Office;

(b) *Calls upon* Governments to intensify their efforts within the context of their representation in the governing bodies of other agencies and organizations of the United Nations system to ensure that those agencies and organizations have the mandate and the needed financial and human resources to undertake their responsibilities as lead agencies to coordinate the development of the clearing-house mechanism of the Global Programme of Action for the Protection of the Marine Environment from Land-based Activities, as defined in the United Nations General Assembly resolution 51/189;

(c) *Recommends* that the Commission on Sustainable Development consider how to promote the early implementation of the Global Programme of Action as one of the components of implementing chapter 17 of Agenda 21[7] and to address recommendations to the appropriate United Nations agencies, bodies and programmes;

(d) *Requests* the Executive Director, in cooperation with Governments, United Nations bodies and agencies and other relevant organizations, to explore the feasibility for the United Nations Environment Programme to convene, by 2000, a global conference to address sewage as a major land-based source of pollution affecting human and ecosystem health;

(e) Taking into account other ongoing processes, *decides* to undertake the first intergovernmental review of the status of implementation of the Global Programme of Action for the Protection of the Marine Environment from Land-based Activities in 2001, and invites the Executive Director to organize, by the end of 1999, an expert group meeting, with the participation of Governments, international organizations and non-governmental organizations, to facilitate the preparations for such a review;

(f) *Recommends* the creation of technical working groups in regional seas programmes to facilitate the exchange of information on successful approaches;

(g) *Calls upon* the Executive Director to improve the effective functioning of the Steering Committee of the Global Programme of Action for the Protection of the Marine Environment from Land-based Activities;

(h) *Recommends* that national and regional partnership meetings be held, based on well-developed national and/or regional programmes of action, for the purpose of creating implementation partnerships with donor organizations, the private sector, non-governmental organizations, local government and all other stakeholders;

2. *Reaffirms* its decision 19/14 A of 7 February 1997 to revitalize the Global Programme of Action for the Protection of the Marine Environment from Land-based Activities and strengthen the regional seas programme and coastal-zone-management approach, as called for in the Global Programme of Action;

11th meeting
5 February 1999

C. Sustainable tourism

The Governing Council,

Recognizing the importance of tourism as a lever for economic development, especially in developing countries,

1. *Notes with appreciation* the initiatives taken thus far by the Executive Director in developing the work programme on sustainable tourism, in cooperation with relevant industry associations and other international organizations, in particular the World Tourism Organization and the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization. Further development of the work programme should be guided by the relevant decisions of the Commission on Sustainable Development at its seventh session;

2. *Requests* the Executive Director to further develop, through a consultative process involving Governments and other relevant partners, guiding principles for sustainable tourism in accordance with the mandate of the United Nations Environment Programme and taking into account the draft principles on sustainable tourism contained in the annex to the report of the Executive Director,[38] and urge those partners to support this process;

3. *Also requests* the Executive Director, in cooperation with relevant partners, including the private sector, to continue the preparations of voluntary initiatives and codes of conduct for the tourism sector;

4. *Invites* the Commission on Sustainable Development to call upon Governments to integrate the consideration of sustainable tourism in their national sustainable development strategies, and into relevant multilateral environmental conventions.

11th meeting
5 February 1999

D. Small island developing States

The Governing Council,

Recognizing the special problems and requirements of small island developing States,

Supporting the goals of the Barbados Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States,[39]

Welcoming the reports of the regional intergovernmental meetings held by small island developing States in 1998, and inviting the Commission on Sustainable Development to give consideration to the outcomes of the meetings,

1. *Invites* the Executive Director to:

(a) Promote and facilitate integrated island management programmes, including economic and legal instruments, administrative structures and management procedures, for the improved protection and use of the resources of small island developing States, encompassing the totality of the terrestrial environment, coastline and adjacent exclusive economic zones;

(b) Strengthen and expand research, monitoring and assessment activities addressed to small island developing States, including the social and economic factors affecting their terrestrial and aquatic environment, as well as relevant information for the development of a "vulnerability index" for small island developing States, including the potential impacts of climate change;

(c) Promote the transfer of, and facilitate access to, scientific information and advice on technologies, including "soft" environmental management technologies, such as policies, practices, management systems, regulatory frameworks and economic instruments appropriate for the needs of small island developing States;

(d) Prepare guidelines and programmes for waste minimization, reduction, treatment and disposal applicable under the constraints of small island developing States;

(e) Promote the development and application of principles for sustainable tourism;

(f) Promote research and assessment regarding the sustainable management and use of the terrestrial and aquatic biodiversity of small island developing States;

(g) Promote public awareness and education activities, including the use of local non-governmental organizations, regarding the need for the sustainable development and use of the natural resources of small island developing States;

2. *Urges* the Executive Director to complete work on state-of-the-environment assessments in time for the seventh session of the Commission on Sustainable Development and the special session of the United Nations General Assembly on the review of the Barbados Programme of Action.

11th meeting
5 February 1999

E. Changing production and consumption patterns

The Governing Council

1. *Notes with appreciation* the activities so far undertaken by the secretariat at the request of the Governing

Council to promote the use of cleaner and safer production approaches;[40]

2. *Further notes with appreciation* the current work aimed at integrating environmental criteria into economic and financial decision-making, especially as it concerns the adoption of cleaner technologies, and further elaborating mechanisms and procedures for financing cleaner production investments;

3. *Encourages* Governments, industries and institutions to continue to make efforts to promote and implement preventative strategies such as cleaner production, green productivity and pollution prevention as preferred options to address environmental problems, and invites those that have not already done so to sign the International Declaration on Cleaner Production, presented on 29 September 1998 at the Fifth High-level Seminar on Cleaner Production, held in the Republic of Korea, and to take steps to implement the Declaration fully;

4. *Welcomes* the *Human Development Report 1998*[41] of the United Nations Development Programme as an important contribution to the work on sustainable production and consumption;

5. *Encourages* the United Nations Environment Programme and the Commission on Sustainable Development to develop, in partnership with the Youth Advisory Council to the United Nations Environment Programme, a sustainable consumption strategy for youth:

(a) To assess the role of youth in the promotion of sustainable consumption;

(b) By engaging the Youth Advisory Council in a global process of youth consultation on these topics;

(c) To identify means to support initiatives for the promotion of sustainable consumption among youth;

6. *Encourages* the Executive Director to develop and undertake activities in promoting more sustainable production and consumption patterns in industry and in the wider community, in particular to assist developing countries. For this purpose, due consideration should be given to, *inter alia*, international cooperation in environmentally sound technologies, financial transfers and the use of voluntary initiatives and market-based incentives;

7. *Stresses* that the United Nations Environment Programme has an important role to play in ensuring that the overriding issue of sustainable production and consumption patterns is duly taken into account within the different themes under the work programme of the Commission on Sustainable Development;

8. *Requests* the Executive Director to further elaborate draft guidelines for the assessment and evaluation of environmentally sound technologies, including guidelines for exporters of potentially hazardous or outdated technologies, and to submit them to the Governing Council at its twenty-first session for consideration.

9. *Welcomes* the activities undertaken by the United Nations Environment Programme in relation to the marketing and advertising sector in addressing sustainable consumption.

11th meeting
5 February 1999

20/20
Establishment of a regional seas programme for the East Central Pacific

The Governing Council,

Having considered the status report of the Executive Director on the establishment of a regional seas programme for the East Central Pacific,[42]

1. *Endorses* the actions taken thus far in facilitating the establishment of a proposed regional seas programme for the East Central Pacific region, and takes note of the wide support by the concerned Governments for the draft Action Plan and corresponding legal instrument;

2. *Invites* the Governments of Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Mexico, Nicaragua and Panama to endorse the proposed Meeting of High-level Government-designated Experts to Review the Proposals for a Convention and Plan of Action for the Protection of the Marine and Coastal Environment of the East Central Pacific Region.

9th meeting
4 February 1999

20/21
Coral reefs

The Governing Council,

Recalling its decision 19/15 of 7 February 1997, by which it urged the United Nations Environment Programme to continue to play an active and leading role in the development, implementation and coordination of regional activities under the International Coral Reef Initiative,

1. *Endorses* the proposed collaborative activities of the United Nations Environment Programme with agencies and organizations of the United Nations system as well as those outside it for the protection and conservation of coral reef ecosystems;

2. *Requests* the Executive Director to carry out an assessment of the experience of the United Nations Environment Programme to date in the implementation of the International Coral Reef Initiative programme and to consider how the role of the United Nations Environment Programme can be strengthened in conjunction with the International Coral Reef Initiative Secretariat, for discussion by the Council at its twenty-first session;

3. *Endorses* enhanced cooperation within the United Nations system, particularly with the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, the United Nations Development Programme, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations and with multilateral development banks such as the World Bank;

4. *Requests* the Executive Director to circulate the Renewed Call to Action of the International Tropical Marine Ecosystems Management Symposium, held in Townsville, Australia, from 23 to 26 November 1998, to the Governing Council for its consideration at its twenty-first session;

5. *Also requests* the Executive Director, in conjunction with the International Coral Reef Initiative Secretariat and the International Coral Reef Initiative Coordination and Planning Committee, to continue to seek funding for the implementation of the Initiative's activities and programmes;

6. *Welcomes* the progress in establishing the global coral reef monitoring network and, in the light of the widespread coral bleaching in 1997–1998, endorses enhanced cooperation between the global coral reef monitoring network's co-sponsors, the United Nations Environment Programme, the World Conservation Union, the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission and the World Bank, to implement the global coral reef monitoring network to support conservation and the sustainable use of coral reef ecosystems;

7. *Recognizes* the important role of the regional seas programmes as implementing and coordinating mechanisms for International Coral Reef Initiative action on a regional scale, and endorses continued and strengthened action by the regional seas programmes in the area of the conservation and sustainable use of coral reefs.

9th meeting
4 February 1999

20/22
Outcome of the Conference of Plenipotentiaries on the Convention on the Prior Informed Consent Procedure for Certain Hazardous Chemicals and Pesticides in International Trade

The Governing Council,

Having considered the report of the Executive Director on the outcome of the Conference of Plenipotentiaries on the Convention on the Prior Informed Consent Procedure for Certain Hazardous Chemicals and Pesticides in International Trade,[43]

Recalling chapter 19 of Agenda 21[7] and Council decisions 18/12 of 26 May 1995, 19/13 A of 7 February 1997 and SS.V/5 of 22 May 1998,

1. *Welcomes* the adoption of the Rotterdam Convention on the Prior Informed Consent Procedure for Certain Hazardous Chemicals and Pesticides in International Trade;[44]

2. *Calls upon* States and regional economic integration organizations entitled to do so to sign, ratify, accept, approve or accede to the Convention with a view to bringing it into force as soon as possible;

3. *Recommends* that the General Assembly endorse the institutional linkage between the United Nations Environment Programme and the Rotterdam Convention on the Prior Informed Consent Procedure for Certain Hazardous Chemicals and Pesticides in International Trade, as called for by the Convention and authorized by the Governing Council in its decision SS.V/5, through which the Executive Director provides secretariat services jointly with the Director-General of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations;

4. *Authorizes* the Executive Director, together with the Director-General of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, to convene such further sessions of the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee for an International Legally Binding Instrument for the Application of the Prior Informed Consent Procedure for Certain Hazardous Chemicals and Pesticides in International Trade, until the date of the opening of the first meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Rotterdam Convention, as are necessary to oversee the operation of the interim prior informed consent procedure[45] and to prepare for and service the Conference of the Parties until the end of the fiscal year in which the first meeting of the Conference of the Parties takes place;

5. *Calls upon* States and regional economic integration organizations to make voluntary contributions

to the trust fund established by the United Nations Environment Programme in order to support the interim arrangements and the operation of the Conference of the Parties until the end of the fiscal year in which the first meeting of the Conference of the Parties takes place, and to ensure the full and effective participation of developing countries and countries with economies in transition in the further work of the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee;

6. *Calls upon* States and regional economic integration organizations with more advanced programmes for regulating chemicals to provide technical assistance, including training, to others in developing their infrastructure and capacities to manage chemicals throughout their life cycle, particularly in view of the urgent need for their participation in the effective operation of the Convention once it enters into force;

7. *Requests* the Executive Director to report to the Governing Council at its twenty-first session on the progress in the work of the secretariat arising from the outcome of the Conference of Plenipotentiaries on the Convention on the Prior Informed Consent Procedure for Certain Hazardous Chemicals and Pesticides in International Trade;

8. *Also requests* the Executive Director to report to the Governing Council at its twenty-first session on progress made in the implementation of the present decision.

9th meeting
4 February 1999

20/23
Chemicals management

The Governing Council,

Having considered the reports of the Executive Director on chemicals management,[46]

1. *Notes with appreciation* the actions taken pursuant to those elements of Governing Council decision 19/13 adopted by the Governing Council in February 1997;

2. *Invites* the Executive Director to consider preparing for a general policy discussion, if deemed appropriate, on chemicals management, in accordance with decision 19/13, at the Governing Council session in 2001.

9th meeting
4 February 1999

20/24
International action to protect human health and the environment through measures which will reduce and/or eliminate emissions and discharges of persistent organic pollutants, including the development of an international legally binding instrument

The Governing Council,

Having considered the report of the Executive Director on international action to protect human health and the environment through measures which will reduce and/or eliminate emissions and discharges of persistent organic pollutants, including the development of an international legally binding instrument,[47]

1. *Welcomes* the progress in the preparation of an international legally binding instrument for implementing international action on certain organic pollutants as well as the implementation of the immediate actions called for in paragraph 13 of its decision 19/13 C of 7 February 1997;

2. *Invites* the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee for an International Legally Binding Instrument for Implementing International Action on Certain Organic Pollutants to continue its work with a view to the conclusion of a legally binding instrument by 2000;

3. *Requests* the Executive Director to continue taking the actions as requested by the Governing Council in its decision 19/13 C, including the immediate actions identified in paragraph 13 of that decision;

4. *Calls upon* Governments as well as intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations to consider providing financial contributions for further negotiations on an international legally binding instrument for implementing international action on certain organic pollutants, particularly through the "POPs Club";

5. *Encourages* Governments as well as intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations to provide financial and in-kind contributions for supporting the implementation of the immediate actions called for in paragraph 13 of Governing Council decision 19/13 C;

6. *Requests* the Executive Director to report to the Governing Council at its twenty-first session on progress made in the implementation of the present decision.

9th meeting
4 February 1999

20/25
Freshwater

The Governing Council,

Recalling its decisions 19/14 D of 7 February 1997 and SS.V/4 of 22 May 1998,

1. *Takes note* of the Global Programme of Action for the Protection of the Marine Environment from Land-based Activities;[36]

2. *Also takes note* of the report of the Executive Director on the work of the United Nations Environment Programme on freshwater issues;[48]

3. *Further takes note* of the Freshwater Strategy contained in the annex to the report of the Executive Director as a proposed framework for the United Nations Environment Programme, within its mandate, to address freshwater issues and carry out activities in the field of freshwater;

4. *Stresses* the role of the United Nations Environment Programme in the environmental aspects of sustainable development and the integrated management of freshwater;

5. *Welcomes* the focus of the freshwater work of the United Nations Environment Programme on the environmental aspects of assessment and sustainable integrated management in accordance with national needs;

6. *Requests* the Executive Director to intensify collaborative activities with Governments, upon request, as well as agencies and organizations both within and outside the United Nations system, in the environmental aspects of freshwater consistent with the mandate of the United Nations Environment Programme and the priorities outlined in Governing Council decisions 19/14 D and SS.V/4;

7. *Decides* that the United Nations Environment Programme, within its mandate and taking into account national priorities, should place a high priority on the identification of expertise and knowledge resident in countries relating to freshwater quality, the establishment of partnerships between those countries and countries in need of that expertise and knowledge and the promotion of intergovernmental collaboration;

8. *Requests* the Executive Director to identify key policy issues for freshwater quality arising from the activities undertaken by the United Nations Environment Programme to date, in line with the decisions of the Commission on Sustainable Development at its sixth session and the Nairobi Declaration on the Role and Mandate of the United Nations Environment Programme,[15] and to propose policy options for debate and endorsement by the Governing Council at its twenty-first session;

9. *Also requests* the Executive Director to ensure that the United Nations Environment Programme, when undertaking its activities related to the environmental aspects of freshwater, takes into account the work carried out by other United Nations agencies and international organizations as well as by national Governments in order to avoid unnecessary duplication;

10. *Further requests* the Executive Director to promote the transfer of environmentally sound technologies for freshwater management through the International Environmental Technology Centre;

11. *Requests* the Executive Director to report to the Governing Council, at its twenty-first session on the progress made in the implementation of the present decision and in related environmental issues.

9th meeting
4 February 1999

20/26
Biosafety

The Governing Council,

Anticipating the outcome of the process towards the sixth and final meeting of the Open-ended Ad Hoc Working Group on Biosafety, to be held at Cartagena de Indias, Colombia, from 14 to 19 February 1999,

Recognizing the possibility that the parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity will be determining a work programme on biosafety pending the entry into force of the biosafety protocol,

Bearing in mind the need of many developing countries to build regulatory capacity with respect to biosafety,

Noting with satisfaction the effective development and implementation on an interim basis of the UNEP International Technical Guidelines for Safety in Biotechnology,[49]

Also noting with satisfaction the report of the Executive Director on the implementation of its decision 19/16 of 7 February 1997, on biosafety,[50]

1. *Requests* the Executive Director to support, in the context of the provisions of the Convention on Biological Diversity,[51] and any work programme that may be developed, appropriate development of the UNEP International Technical Guidelines for Safety in Biotechnology in view of the rapid changes and

developments in the field of modern technology, in close collaboration with the relevant international organizations;

2. *Also requests* the Executive Director to assist Governments in implementing the forthcoming biosafety protocol in a manner as agreed by the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity and in collaboration with the secretariat of the Convention;

3. *Further requests* the Executive Director to continue mobilizing resources, including through the Global Environment Facility, for support to developing countries and countries with economies in transition to prepare effective national biosafety frameworks in the context of the proposed biosafety protocol, in collaboration with the secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity and consistent with the obligations of the parties to the Convention (under article 8 (g) thereof), taking into account the UNEP International Technical Guidelines for Safety in Biotechnology;

4. *Requests* the Executive Director to continue promoting greater awareness of biosafety issues and subregional or regional cooperation in the enhancement of capacities for the exchange and supply of information on safety in biotechnology and training;

5. *Notes with appreciation* the support given by the Global Environment Facility to the Pilot Biosafety Enabling Activity Project[52] and, taking into account the necessary evaluation and review of that Project, invites the Facility to extend such support in the field of capacity-building for issues related to biosafety to developing countries and countries with economies in transition in accordance with decisions II/5, III/5 and III/20 of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity;

6. *Requests* the Executive Director to support, as appropriate, the establishment and further strengthening of subregional and regional biosafety risk-assessment capabilities in collaboration with the secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity and other relevant organizations.

9th meeting
4 February 1999

20/27
Support to Africa

The Governing Council,

Having considered the report of the Executive Director on support to Africa,[53]

Recalling its decision SS.V/2 of 22 May 1998 in which support to Africa was identified as a priority for the United Nations Environment Programme,

Aware that African countries are vulnerable to the environmental problems of global concern, such as climate change, land degradation and desertification, oceans, biological diversity, sound management of freshwater and wastes management, and the need for intensified efforts in assisting them in combating such problems as they pursue their environmental goals,

Conscious that the lack of adequate national environmental legislation and relevant institutional arrangements and means for enforcing regulatory measures is one of the major problems encountered by African countries in effectively addressing environmental challenges,

Affirming the urgent need to strengthen the technical capacities of the representatives of African countries to the conferences of parties to the global environmental conventions and their subsidiary bodies, in particular the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change,[54] the Convention on Biological Diversity[51] and the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, particularly in Africa,[22]

I. Cooperation and coordination

1. *Notes with appreciation* the Special Consultation of the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment held in Nairobi in October 1998[55] to consider a common African position at the fourth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, and the supporting role of the United Nations Environment Programme in this regard;

2. *Requests* the Executive Director to continue providing support to the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment with a view to facilitating the integration of global and African environmental agendas;

3. *Also requests* the Executive Director to enhance the coordinating role of the United Nations Environment Programme, and in particular the Regional Office for Africa, in promoting programmatic coherence among activities in Africa carried out in connection with the implementation of regional and global conventions and protocols in the field of the environment, as well as in enhancing the participation of African countries in international environmental negotiations;

4. *Further requests* the Executive Director to strengthen cooperation and collaboration with African regional and subregional organizations, in particular the Economic Commission for Africa and the Organization of African Unity, in order to effectively address environmental issues of common interest in a cost-efficient manner;

II. Assistance to African countries

5. *Requests* the Executive Director to continue providing, upon request, assistance to African countries, in particular in the areas identified as the core elements of the focused mandate of the United Nations Environment Programme in the Nairobi Declaration on the Role and Mandate of the United Nations Environment Programme,[15] and taking into account the interlinkages of various sectoral environmental issues, such as those among freshwater, forestry and land degradation;

6. *Also requests* the Executive Director to continue providing African countries with technical, legal and policy advice for the development of national legislation and relevant institutions dealing with environmental matters;

7. *Further requests* the Executive Director to assist African countries in promoting environmentally sound technologies, and in promoting African national capacities in this field;

8. *Requests* the Executive Director to explore ways and means for the United Nations Environment Programme to effectively assist African countries in formulating Global Environment Facility projects, with the aim of increasing the African share in projects funded by the Facility and implemented by the United Nations Environment Programme;

9. *Also requests* the Executive Director, in collaboration with the Global Environmental Facility as appropriate, to continue strengthening the capacity of African countries through the provision of training and relevant information as may enhance their effective participation in the development and implementation of global environmental conventions, in particular the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, the Convention on Biological Diversity and the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, particularly in Africa;

III. Priorities

10. *Requests* the Executive Director, in implementing the priorities of the United Nations Environment Programme in Africa, to give high priority within its focused mandate to assisting African countries in implementing their commitments under the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, particularly in Africa;

11. *Also requests* the Executive Director to further strengthen the role of the United Nations Environment Programme in the field of environmental assessment and monitoring in Africa with a view to assisting African countries;

12. *Further requests* the Executive Director in revising the work programme for 1999 to take into account the priorities set forth in the present decision;

13. *Requests* the Executive Director to report to the Governing Council at its twenty-first session on the progress made in the implementation of the present decision.

9th meeting
4 February 1999

20/28
Promoting interlinkages among global environmental issues and human needs

The Governing Council,

Bearing in mind its decisions 19/1 of 7 February 1997, on the Nairobi Declaration on the Role and Mandate of the United Nations Environment Programme,[15] and SS.V/2 of 22 May 1998, on revitalization, reform and strengthening of the United Nations Environment Programme,

Having considered the report of the Executive Director on promoting interlinkages among global environmental issues and human needs,[56]

Mindful of the importance of the scientific and policy interlinkages among global environmental issues and their relevance to the human needs of food, shelter, health and clean water,

Noting with appreciation the constructive collaboration between the United Nations Environment Programme and the World Bank in this initiative, as well as the financial support provided by the United States National Aeronautics and Space Administration,

1. *Welcomes* the report entitled *Protecting Our Planet, Securing Our Future: Linkages among Global Environmental Issues and Human Needs*;[57]

2. *Urges* Governments to take into consideration the conclusions and recommendations of the report in preparing their national environment and sustainable development strategies and plans;

3. *Underscores* that sustainable development depends upon a healthy local, national, regional and global environment and that the United Nations Environment Programme has a major role to play in promoting actions at all levels that are designed to sustain the continued adequate functioning of ecological systems;

4. *Requests* the Executive Director to continue to address global environmental issues within a more holistic and synergistic policy framework so as to improve the scientific and policy interlinkages among global environmental issues and the ways in which they influence the ability of countries to meet basic human needs, taking special note of the scientific and policy linkages among global and regional environmental conventions and other relevant international agreements;

5. *Also requests* the Executive Director to recognize that effective policy implementation that links global environmental issues and sustainable development requires:

(a) Scientific understanding of the nature of the links among environmental issues and their relationships to meeting human needs, to facilitate the balancing of competing needs and the identification of strategies that capture as many benefits as possible;

(b) Identification of innovative combinations of policies that are effective and cost-efficient and that encourage the public and private sectors to work together;

(c) Political will and public commitment to seriously address global environmental issues, including the setting of realistic goals and the identification of creative paths for achieving them;

(d) Improved coordination among the national and international institutions charged with developing and encouraging the adoption of policies and measures to meet human needs, without undermining the environmental foundation for development;

6. *Urges* the World Bank and other international, regional and national organizations concerned to collaborate with the United Nations Environment Programme in this endeavour;

7. *Requests* the Executive Director to transmit the conclusions and recommendations of the report on promoting interlinkages among global environmental issues and human needs to the governing bodies of global environment conventions and relevant international agreements.

9th meeting
4 February 1999

20/29
Policy and advisory services of the United Nations Environment Programme in the key area of economics, trade and financial services

The Governing Council,

Having considered the report of the Executive Director on the policy and advisory services of the United Nations Environment Programme in the key area of economics, trade and financial services,[58]

1. *Requests* the Executive Director to further assist countries, particularly developing countries and countries with economies in transition, in order to help enhance their capacities to integrate environmental considerations with development planning and decision-making;

2. *Also requests* the Executive Director to provide such assistance through the further development of training in, and application of, environmental impact assessment and valuation, methodologies for natural-resource accounting and relevant economic instruments at the national level. Such assistance may be provided in connection with the implementation by the above-mentioned countries of multilateral environmental agreements and should be designed to reflect the socio-economic and development priorities as well as needs and capacities of individual countries;

3. *Further requests* the Executive Director to continue to examine policy options for effectively addressing the challenges of integrating environmental considerations with trade and trade policies, with a view to assisting Governments in their efforts to develop mutually supportive trade and environment policies. For this purpose, due consideration should be given, *inter alia,* to international cooperation in environmentally sound technologies, financial transfers and the use of market-based incentives;

4. *Requests* the Executive Director to continue to assist countries, particularly developing countries and countries with economies in transition, in order to improve understanding of the environmental effects of trade with a view to enabling them to develop and implement policies that could integrate environmental considerations with trade policies;

5. *Requests* the Executive Director to continue to carry out analytical studies, in close collaboration with the environmental conventions for which the United Nations Environment Programme provides secretariat services, on, *inter alia,* the effectiveness of market-based incentives in achieving the objectives of those conventions and the

relationship between trade measures contained in the conventions and international trade policy;

6. *Also requests* the Executive Director to continue to cooperate actively with other international organizations dealing with the relationship between the environment and trade, in particular the World Trade Organization and the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development;

7. *Further requests* the Executive Director to continue to collaborate with the private sector, in particular industry and the financial-service sector, with a view to enhancing their contribution to sustainable development activities and programmes through the integration of environmental considerations into the internal and external operations of these institutions;

8. *Requests* the Executive Director to strengthen the capacities of the secretariat to carry out the tasks identified in the present decision.

9th meeting
4 February 1999

20/30
Mercure satellite communications system

The Governing Council,

Recalling its decisions 17/38 of 21 May 1993, 18/47 of 25 May 1995 and 19/30 of 7 February 1997,

1. *Welcomes* the report of the Executive Director on the Mercure satellite telecommunications system,[59] which contains an indicative review and cost-benefit analysis of the system;

2. *Notes* that the Mercure satellite telecommunications system was formally handed over to the United Nations Environment Programme by the European Space Agency in November 1997, and that the project budget of the Agency will be closed on 31 March 1999;

3. *Expresses its gratitude* to the Government of Norway, for its generous contribution to the United Nations Environment Programme to establish and maintain the UNEPnet Implementation Centre in Arendal, Norway, which is essential to the successful operation and maintenance of Mercure and UNEPnet, and to Austria, Belgium, Spain, Switzerland and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, which have provided technical and financial contributions to the development of the project;

4. *Notes with appreciation* that all earth stations of the Mercure system are fully operational and are providing substantive improvements in the telecommunication services for the United Nations Environment Programme at reduced costs, as well as facilitating the transfer of and access to environmental data;

5. *Encourages* the Executive Director to further enhance the cost-effectiveness of the Mercure network by achieving optimal cost integration with the United Nations global telecommunications system, particularly with regard to the availability of voice telephony and the sharing of all Mercure services with United Nations agencies in Nairobi;

6. *Requests* the Government of Kenya, in consultation with the Executive Director, as a matter of urgency and with regard to further stabilizing and strengthening Nairobi as a United Nations location, to facilitate the implementation of voice telephony on Mercure to the United Nations Environment Programme and other United Nations agencies in Nairobi;

7. *Calls upon* the Executive Director to examine means for improving communications between the secretariat and the permanent missions in Nairobi, with the assistance of the United Nations Office at Nairobi;

8. *Encourages* the Executive Director to continue to make the UNEPnet/Mercure system available for utilization by the United Nations telecommunications system and other organizations of the United Nations system on a cost-sharing basis at sites where this is technically and economically feasible;

9. *Also encourages* the Executive Director to expand co-funded efforts with partner organizations of the United Nations Environment Programme for discussion on the continued implementation, operation and utilization of UNEPnet/Mercure;

10. *Authorizes* the Executive Director to engage in collaborative programmes with other donors to provide for discussions on the expansion of the existing UNEPnet/Mercure infrastructure through extrabudgetary support;

11. *Notes* that, despite the impression conveyed in the reports of the Board of Auditors and the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions, the United Nations Environment Programme did have the authority to sign the agreement on the Mercure project with the European Space Agency on behalf of the United Nations, and that the Mercure system does provide cost-effective services and positive benefits to the United Nations Environment Programme, and urges the Executive Director to bring the contents of his report on the Mercure satellite communications system to the attention of the said bodies, with a view to the rectification of those errors;

12. *Requests* the Executive Director to ensure that a comprehensive review and cost-benefit analysis of the UNEPnet/Mercure system, including the UNEPnet Implementation Centre, is presented to the Governing Council at its next session and is brought to the attention of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions, the Office of Internal Oversight Services and the Board of Auditors;

13. *Encourages* countries with relevant environmental data and information assets of value for improved environmental monitoring and management to make them readily accessible to all countries, especially developing countries, for ease of delivery through this initiative of the United Nations Environment Programme.

9th meeting
4 February 1999

20/31

Proposed programme budget of the United Nations Environment Programme: revised requirements for the biennium 1998–1999 and proposed requirements for the biennium 2000–2001

The Governing Council,

I. Resources of the Environment Fund

Having considered the report of the Executive Director on the proposed programme budget, revised requirements for the biennium 1998–1999 and proposed requirements for the biennium 2000–2001,[60] the related report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions[61] and the comments of the Executive Director on the observations and recommendations in the report of the Advisory Committee,[62]

1. *Notes with appreciation* the efforts made to improve transparency in the preparation of the budget and requests the Executive Director to further harmonize the budget presentation with other United Nations bodies, especially the United Nations Development Programme, the United Nations Population Fund, the United Nations Children's Fund and the United Nations International Drug Control Programme;

2. *Notes with great concern* the deterioration of the environment at the global level despite some achievements in various areas, and strongly stresses the need for urgent and immediate action;

3. *Expresses its appreciation* to those Governments that have contributed or have pledged to contribute to the Environment Fund at a higher level in the biennium 1998–1999, and appeals to all Governments to contribute to the Environment Fund or to increase their support to the United Nations Environment Programme, either in cash or in kind, in order for it to implement fully its programme;

4. *Notes with concern* that the level of contributions to the Environment Fund received and pledged for the biennium 1998–1999, as at 30 November 1998, falls short of the Governing Council's estimates by a significant margin. This means that the programme of work approved by the Governing Council for the biennium 1998–1999 at the level of 75 million United States dollars can be only implemented if Governments come forward with the additional funding needed to adequately implement it;

5. *Reaffirms* that, in conformity with Agenda 21[7] and in order to be able to exercise the functions assigned to it, the United Nations Environment Programme requires additional human and financial resources;

6. *Recognizes* the need to broaden the base of contributions to include all Members of the United Nations, especially countries that have developed a greater capacity to pay;

7. *Urges* all Governments to make efforts to pay their contributions prior to the year to which the contributions relate or, at the latest, at the beginning of the year to which they relate, in order to enable the United Nations Environment Programme to plan and execute the Fund programme more effectively;

8. *Also urges* all Governments, where possible, to make pledges of their future contributions to the Environment Fund at least one year in advance of the year to which they relate and, if possible, two years in advance;

9. *Approves* the revised appropriations of Fund resources in 1998–1999 of 25.83 million dollars for the management and administrative support costs budget, and reconfirms the appropriation of 75 million dollars for Fund programme activities and 5 million dollars for the Fund programme reserve;

10. *Also approves* an appropriation of Fund resources in 2000–2001 of 14.23 million dollars for the management and administrative support costs budget, 100 million dollars for Fund programme activities and 5 million dollars for the Fund programme reserve, recognizing that this will require substantial additional funding, as available, compared to the authorized appropriation for the biennium 1998–1999;

11. *Authorizes* the Executive Director, based on the approval of the Fund programme appropriation by the

Governing Council, to approve costed work plans for direct implementation of specific subprogrammes and activities;

12. *Also authorizes* the Executive Director to prepare for the biennium 2002–2003 a programme of work consisting of Fund programme activities of 120 million dollars, and requests the Executive Director to include in each separate draft decision to be presented in relation to the programme of work for 2002–2003, a cost estimate for the activities proposed;

13. *Further authorizes* the Executive Director to enter into forward commitments not exceeding 20 million dollars for Fund programme activities in the biennium 2002– 2003;

14. *Notes* the steps taken by the Executive Director to increase the financial reserve to its present level of 10 million dollars, and urges the Executive Director to further increase the level of the financial reserve to 20 million dollars as and when carry-over resources become available over and above those needed to implement the programme approved for the bienniums 1998–1999 and 2000–2001;

15. *Approves* the decision that the outstanding pledges in the period 1992–1995, as listed in paragraph 61 of the report of the Executive Director,[63] not be regarded as assets for accounting purposes;

II. Management and administrative support costs budget

Recalling paragraph 9 of its decision 19/22, part II, of 7 February 1997, by which it approved an appropriation of 27.5 million dollars for the management and administrative support costs budget for the biennium 1998–1999, and paragraph 7 of its decision SS.V/1, part I, of 22 May 1998, by which it confirmed the 1998–1999 management and administrative support costs budget appropriation of 27.5 million dollars, subject to the continued feasibility of the approved 1998–1999 programme of 75 million dollars,

Also recalling paragraphs 8 and 9 of its decision SS.V/1, part I, by which it urged the Executive Director to manage the 1998–1999 management and administrative support costs budget appropriation with the utmost economy and to achieve greater efficiencies in those offices funded from the management and administrative support costs budget and requested the Executive Director further to reduce 1998–1999 management and administrative support cost expenditures, bearing in mind Governing Council decision 18/42 of 25 May 1995, should contributions to the Environment Fund fall short of the level required to implement the approved 1998–1999 programme of 75 million dollars,

Further recalling paragraph 4 of its decision SS.V/2 of 22 May 1998, by which it welcomed the intention of the Executive Director to realize the "environmental dividend" from the streamlining and rationalization of the administrative arrangements for the United Nations Environment Programme, in accordance with the principle of equitable geographical representation and gender balance, as well as the interests of developing countries,

1. *Notes with appreciation* that the anticipated 1998 management and administrative support costs expenditures, subject to the final closure of 1998 accounts, have been at the level of 11.65 million dollars and that the efficiency measures implemented by the Executive Director resulted in savings of administrative expenditures of approximately 1.65 million dollars;

2. *Approves* a revised appropriation of 25.83 million dollars for the management and administrative support costs budget for the biennium 1998–1999, with the revised distribution by programme and object of expenditure proposed by the Executive Director;

3. *Also approves* the proposed changes in the approved staffing tables for the bienniums 1998–1999 and 2000–2001, as set out in the Executive Director's report;[60]

4. *Further approves* the revised format and structure of the management and administrative support costs budget, as set out in the proposed budget for 2000–2001;

5. *Approves* an appropriation of 14.23 million dollars for the management and administrative support costs budget for the biennium 2000–2001 with the distribution by programme and object of expenditure proposed by the Executive Director;

6. *Notes* that the proposed appropriation of Environment Fund resources in the biennium 2000–2001 of 14.23 million dollars for the management and administrative support costs budget is provisional upon an increase in funding from the United Nations regular budget for the United Nations Office at Nairobi of approximately 2 million dollars in order to strengthen administrative services provided to the United Nations Environment Programme and the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat) in the biennium 2000–2001;

7. *Notes with concern* the large discrepancy in the amount of funding provided from the United Nations regular budget to the United Nations Office at Nairobi, in relation to that provided to the United Nations Office at Vienna and

the United Nations Office at Geneva, and appeals to the General Assembly at its fifty-fourth session to consider positively a substantial increase in the regular budget allocation to the administration of the United Nations Office at Nairobi in the context of the regular budget for the United Nations for the biennium 2000–2001;

III. Programme of work: revised appropriation for Fund programme activities in the biennium 1998–1999 and appropriation for Fund programme activities in the biennium 2000–2001

Recalling once again paragraph 38.21 of Agenda 21,[7] adopted by the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, reconfirming the mandate of the United Nations Environment Programme and stating that its Governing Council should continue to play its role with regard to policy guidance and coordination in the field of the environment, taking into account the development perspective,

Recalling paragraph 11 of its decision SS.V/1 of 22 May 1998, by which the Governing Council requested the Executive Director to re-examine the 1998–1999 programme approved by the Governing Council at its nineteenth session in the light of the core elements of the focused mandate of the Nairobi Declaration on the Role and Mandate of the United Nations Environment Programme[15] and to report thereon to the Governing Council at its twentieth session,

Recalling also paragraph 12 of decision SS.V/1, by which the Executive Director was authorized to prepare a 2000–2001 programme of work and also to define a core programme for the biennium 2000–2001, making use of the priorities of the Nairobi Declaration, that established a direct and realistic link between the volume of activities to be undertaken and available financing, to be presented to the Governing Council at its twentieth session,

Having considered the report of the Executive Director on the proposed programme of work for the biennium 2000–2001,[60]

1. *Approves* an appropriation of 100 million dollars for Fund programme activities for the biennium 2000–2001;

2. *Decides* to apportion the appropriation for the biennium 2000–2001 as follows:

		United States dollars
1.	Environmental assessment and early warning	
1.1	Environmental assessment and reporting	10 700 000
1.2	Systems and networks for data/information generation, analysis, observing and early warning	8 856 000
1.3	Environmental science and research	320 000
1.4	Access to environmental information and public participation in decision-making	4 124 000
	Subtotal	**24 000 000**
2.	Policy development and law	
2.1	Policy analysis, review and development	2 708 000
2.2	Legal, economic and other instruments	7 727 311
2.3	Policy coordination and inter-agency affairs	1 888 689
2.4	Resource mobilization	676 000
	Subtotal	**13 000 000**
3.	Policy implementation	
3.1	Technical cooperation	5 490 000
3.2	Coordination of emergency response	1 510 000
	Subtotal	**7 000 000**
4.	Technology, industry and economics	
4.1	Environmental technologies and technology	1 370 000
4.2	Production and consumption	6 040 000
4.3	Chemicals	8 200 000
4.4	Energy and OzonAction	1 900 000
4.5	Economics and trade	3 347 000
4.6	Division office and regional officers	2 143 000
	Subtotal	**23 000 000**
5.	Regional cooperation and representation	
5.1	Regional policy, planning and servicing based at headquarters	2 730 000
5.2	Regional offices	17 770 000
	Africa	3 160 000
	Asia and the Pacific	3 370 000
	Europe	3 900 000
	Latin America and the Caribbean	3 680 000
	North America	1 080 000
	West Asia	2 580 000
	Subtotal	**20 500 000**

		United States dollars
6.	Environmental conventions	
6.1	Policy and programme linkages	1 350 000
6.2	Internal coordination for development of new conventions/agreements	100 000
6.3	Coordination of provision of UNEP programmatic support	5 325 000
	Subtotal	**6 775 000**
7.	Communication and public information	
7.1	Spokesperson's functions	480 000
7.2	Media services	1 820 000
7.3	Public affairs	1 035 000
7.4	Publications and writing/editorial services	1 700 000
7.5	Public query-response and library services	690 000
	Subtotal	**5 725 000**
	Grand total	**100 000 000**

3. *Authorizes* the Executive Director to adjust on a pro rata basis the programme-activities level of expenditure to bring it in line with possible variations in income compared to the authorized level of expenditure;

4. *Reaffirms* the authority of the Executive Director to adjust the apportionment for each budget line by up to 20 per cent;

5. *Requests* the Executive Director to provide financial details of work programmes to member Governments in accordance with article V of the General Procedures Governing the Operations of the United Nations Environment Programme, if so requested;

6. *Also requests* the Executive Director to take into account all relevant decisions of the Governing Council on priorities for United Nations Environment Programme activities taken at its twentieth session, in further developing and implementing the environment programme for the biennium 2000–2001, taking account also of funding from other sources;

7. Further to article VI of the General Procedures Governing the Operations of the United Nations Environment Programme, *requests* the Executive Director to make available to Member States, twice a year, information on progress made in the implementation of the programme of work;

8. *Requests* the Executive Director:

(a) To prepare the first draft budget and work programme for the 2002–2003 biennium well in advance of the twenty-first session of the Governing Council in order to allow Member States to comment on it;

(b) To submit a finalized draft budget and work programme for consideration and approval by the Governing Council at its twenty-first session;

9. *Also requests* the Executive Director, in preparing future budgets and programmes of work, to include corresponding details of the previous budget and programme of work to allow comparison of patterns of activity;

10. *Approves* the programmatic restructuring set out in the proposed programme of work for the biennium 2000–2001 consisting of seven subprogrammes and twenty-six subprogramme elements which integrates all elements previously contained in the programme activity centres, as established in earlier decisions of the Governing Council, and, as a result, notes the dissolution of the following programme activity centres: Dryland Ecosystems and Desertification Control, Environmental Law and Institutions, Global Environment Monitoring System, Industry and Environment, International Register for Potentially Toxic Chemicals, INFOTERRA, Global Resource Information Database and Oceans and Coastal Areas.

9th meeting
4 February 1999

20/32
Report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions on the Environment Fund budgets: revised proposals for 1998–1999 and proposals for 2000–2001

The Governing Council

Notes with appreciation the recommendations contained in the report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions on the proposed programme budget of the United Nations Environment Programme, the revised requirements for 1998–1999 and the proposed requirements for 2000–2001[61] and the comments of the Executive Director on the observations and recommendations in the report of the Advisory Committee,[62] and requests the Executive Director to address all recommendations and to report thereon to the Committee of Permanent Representatives.

9th meeting
4 February 1999

20/33

Stable, adequate and predictable funding for the United Nations Environment Programme

The Governing Council,

Recalling its decision 19/23 of 7 February 1997,

Having considered the report of the Executive Director on stable, adequate and predictable funding for the United Nations Environment Programme,[64]

1. *Reaffirms,* as stated in the Nairobi Declaration on the Role and Mandate of the United Nations Environment Programme,[15] that the United Nations Environment Programme needs adequate, stable and predictable financial resources in order to operationalize its mandate, and reiterates the interrelationship between excellence, relevance and cost-effectiveness in programme delivery, confidence in the organization and a consequent increase in the competitive ability of the Programme to attract funding;

2. *Takes note with appreciation* of the efforts undertaken to define the outline of the strategy for stable, adequate and predictable funding for the United Nations Environment Programme contained in the annex to the present decision as a basis for the development of such a strategy;

3. *Requests* the Executive Director to initiate a process of consultations with Governments and other relevant parties, directly and through the Committee of Permanent Representatives and the High-level Committee of Ministers and Officials, in order to fully develop a strategy for stable, adequate and predictable funding for the United Nations Environment Programme;

4. *Also requests* the Executive Director to take initial action on the strategy prior to its finalization through the consultative process and its approval by the Governing Council;

5. *Calls upon* Governments and other relevant parties to provide financial and other resources to the United Nations Environment Programme, taking into account the above-mentioned consultative process and the resulting strategy;

6. *Requests* the Executive Director to report to the Governing Council at its twenty-first session on progress made in the implementation of the present decision.

9th meeting
4 February 1999

Annex

Outline of a strategy concerning stable, adequate and predictable funding for the United Nations Environment Programme

1. *General principles*

(a) Need for the United Nations Environment Programme to have stable, adequate and predictable financial resources in order to operationalize the focused mandate as contained in the Nairobi Declaration.

(b) Recognition of the interrelationship between excellence, relevance and cost-effectiveness in the United Nations Environment Programme's programme delivery, confidence in the organization and a consequent increase in the competitive ability of the Programme to attract funding.

(c) Need for continued reform of the United Nations Environment Programme to enhance its programme performance, which should be matched by political will among Governments and other donors to provide the Programme with stable, adequate and predictable financial resources.

(d) Emphasis on transparent procedures in considering the issue of stable, adequate and predictable funding.

(e) Required action should not create additional administrative burden either to the Programme or Governments and other donors.

2. *Modalities for linking programme performance, impact and effectiveness of the United Nations Environment Programme with its funding*

(a) The United Nations Environment Programme to prepare a programme of work on the basis of realistic expectations of the forthcoming contributions under the given political and economic environment.

(b) The Programme to intensify communication of its achievements to Governments and other donors.

(c) Objective indicators be developed, subject to regular review, for assessment of programme performance, impact and effectiveness of the Programme as a means for identifying the funding needs.

(d) International platforms be regularly convened for policy dialogue between the United Nations Environment Programme and Governments and other donors to assess the programme performance, impact and effectiveness of the Programme and to match that assessment with the level of funding.

3. *Stable funding*

(a) *Broader donor base.* In addition to Governments, funding also by foundations, non-governmental organizations and other private-sector parties.

(b) *Innovative modalities of funding.* Options might include: agreed contributions; contributions to be determined on the basis of consultations; some form of increased burden-sharing among contributors.

(c) Ways to offset or minimize the effects of exchange-rate fluctuations.

4. *Adequate funding*

(a) Recognition of the linkage between adequacy of financial resources, or the level of funding, and programme performance, impact and effectiveness.

(b) Modalities to link the budget with outputs achieved, with a view to identifying the adequacy of funding.

5. *Predictable funding*

(a) *Timely payment of contributions.* A format might be agreed to ensure that the payment is made in the first quarter or first half of the year, which would enable early allocations and hence better planning.

(b) The Programme should be notified in advance of the amount of the contributions concerned and when to expect the payment.

(c) Need to have a flexible and practical mechanism concerning the modality of payment that takes into account the administrative and budgetary procedure, such as the budget cycle, and relevant legislation in countries.

(d) *Feasibility of multi-year pledges.* A possible scenario might be a firm pledge for the first (current) year, with the announcement of indicative contributions for the second year and tentative contributions for the third year (or following years).

(e) Use of formal mechanisms to ensure the predictability of contributions, such as memoranda of understanding between the prospective contributors and the Programme concerning the amount of contributions and schedule of payment.

(f) A mechanism to be established to provide Governments with an early warning of forthcoming shortfalls in financial resources of the Programme so that remedial action could be taken.

6. *Monitoring*

Modalities for monitoring and measuring the programme performance, impact and effectiveness of the outputs of the Programme's programme activities, in order to promote, *inter alia*, a more transparent decision-making process with regard to the funding of the Programme.

20/34
Management of trust funds and counterpart contributions

The Governing Council,

Having considered the report of the Executive Director on the management of trust funds,[65]

1. *Notes and approves* the establishment of the following trust funds since its nineteenth session:

(a) *General trust funds*:

(i) General Trust Fund for Environmental Emergencies, established in 1997 with no fixed expiry date;

(ii) General Trust Fund to Support the Activities of the United Nations Environment Programme Financial Services Initiative on the Environment, established in 1998 with no fixed expiry date;

(iii) General Trust Fund in Support of the Implementation of the Global Programme of Action for the Protection of the Marine Environment from Land-based Activities, and Related Information Exchange and Technical Assistance, established in 1997 with no fixed expiry date;

(iv) General Trust Fund in Support of the Work of the United Nations Environment Programme High-level Committee of Ministers and Officials, established in 1997 with no fixed expiry date;

(v) General Trust Fund in Support of the Preparation for and Negotiation of an Internationally Legally Binding Instrument for International Action on Persistent Organic Pollutants, and Related Information Exchange and Technical Assistance Activities, established in 1997 with no fixed expiry date;

(vi) General Trust Fund in Support of the Implementation of Governing Council Decisions in the North American Region, established in 1998 with no fixed expiry date;

(b) *Technical cooperation trust funds*:

(i) Technical Cooperation Trust Fund in Support of the UNEPnet Implementation Centre (financed by the Government of Norway), established in 1997 with an expiry date of 31 December 2002;

(ii) Technical Cooperation Trust Fund to Support the Establishment of Regional Centres under the Basel Convention (financed by the Government of Switzerland), established in 1997 with an expiry date of 31 December 1999;

(iii) Technical Cooperation Trust Fund for the Production of an Information Video Booklet on Working Safely with Hydrocarbons in Domestic and Small-scale Commercial Refrigeration (financed by the Government of Germany), established in 1998 with an expiry date of 31 December 1998;

(iv) Technical Cooperation Trust Fund in Support of the Coordination Office of the Global Programme of Action for the Protection of the Marine Environment from Land-based Activities (financed by the Government of the Netherlands), established in 1998 with an expiry date of 31 December 2003;

(v) Technical Cooperation Trust Fund in Support of the United Nations Environment Programme's Implementation of Enabling and Pioneering Environmental Projects (financed by the Government of Germany), established in 1998 with no fixed expiry date;

(vi) Technical Cooperation Trust Fund in Support of the Meetings of the United Nations Environment Programme High-level Committee of Ministers and Officials (financed by the Government of the United States of America), established in 1997 with no fixed expiry date;

(vii) Technical Cooperation Trust Fund for the Promotion of Cleaner Production Investments in Developing Countries (financed by the Government of Norway), established in 1998 with an expiry date of 31 December 2001;

(viii) Technical Cooperation Trust Fund for the United Nations Environment Programme's Implementation of Activities Funded by the United Nations Fund for International Partnership, established in 1998 with no fixed expiry date;

(ix) Technical Cooperation Trust Fund in Support of Meetings of Subcommittees or Working Groups on Programmatic and Administrative Reform of the United Nations Environment Programme (financed by the Government of the United States of America), established in 1997 with no fixed expiry date;

(x) Technical Cooperation Trust Fund for the Provision of a Senior Programme Officer to the UNEP/Global Programme of Action Office in The Hague (financed by the Government of France), established in 1998 with no fixed expiry date;

(xi) Technical Cooperation Trust Fund for the Provision of Professional Officers to the Ozone Secretariat (financed by the Government of the Netherlands), established in 1998 with no fixed expiry date;

(xii) Technical Cooperation Trust Fund to Support the United Nations Environment Programme Executive Director's Implementation of Personnel Reforms in the Secretariat of the Programme (financed by the Government of the United States of America), established in 1998 with no fixed expiry date;

(xiii) Technical Cooperation Trust Fund for the Provision of an Associate Programme Officer to the New York Office of the United Nations Environment Programme (financed by the Government of Switzerland), established in 1998 with no fixed expiry date;

(xiv) Technical Cooperation Trust Fund for the Provision of Junior Professional Officers (financed by the Governments of the Nordic countries through the Government of Sweden), established in 1998 with no fixed expiry date;

(xv) Technical Cooperation Trust Fund for the Provision of an Executive Assistant to the Executive Director (financed by the Government of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland), established in 1998 with no fixed expiry date;

(xvi) Technical Cooperation Trust Fund for the Provision of a Mining Expert (financed by the South African Chamber of Mines), established in 1997 with no fixed expiry date;

2. *Also notes and approves* the extension of the following trust funds by the Executive Director:

(a) *General trust funds*:

(i) General Trust Fund for the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment (AMCEN), through 31 December 2000;

(ii) Trust Fund for the Basel Convention on the Control of Transboundary Movements of Hazardous

Wastes and Their Disposal, through 31 December 2004;

(iii) Trust Fund to Assist Developing Countries and Other Countries in Need of Technical Assistance in the Implementation of the Basel Convention on the Control of Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes and Their Disposal, through 31 December 2004;

(iv) General Trust Fund for Additional Voluntary Contributions in Support of Approved Activities under the Convention on Biological Diversity, through 31 December 2001;

(v) General Trust Fund for the Convention on Biological Diversity, through 31 December 2001;

(vi) General Trust Fund for Voluntary Contributions to Facilitate the Participation of Parties in the Process of the Convention on Biological Diversity, through 31 December 2001;

(vii) Trust Fund for the Montreal Protocol on Substances that Deplete the Ozone Layer, through 31 December 2000;

(viii) Trust Fund for the Vienna Convention for the Protection of the Ozone Layer, through 31 December 2000;

(b) *Technical cooperation trust funds*: Technical Cooperation Trust Fund to Assist Developing Countries to Take Action in Accordance with Agenda 21 (financed by the Government of Sweden), through 31 December 1999;

3. *Approves* the extension of the following trust funds subject to the United Nations Environment Programme receiving requests to do so from the relevant Governments or contracting parties:

(a) *General trust funds*:

(i) General Trust Fund for the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment (AMCEN), through 31 December 2002;

(ii) Regional Trust Fund for the Implementation of the Action Plan for the Caribbean Environment Programme, through 31 December 2001;

(iii) Regional Seas Trust Fund for the Eastern African Region, through 31 December 2001;

(iv) Regional Trust Fund for the Implementation of the Action Plan for the Protection and Development of the Marine Environment and Coastal Areas of East Asian Seas, through 31 December 2001;

(v) Trust Fund for the Environmental Training Network in Latin America and the Caribbean, through 31 December 2001;

(vi) Trust Fund for Protection of the Mediterranean Sea against Pollution, through 31 December 2001;

(vii) Trust Fund for the Montreal Protocol on Substances that Deplete the Ozone Layer, through 31 December 2004;

(viii) General Trust Fund for the Protection, Management and Development of the Coastal and Marine Environment and the Resources of the North-west Pacific Region, through 31 December 2001;

(ix) Trust Fund for the Vienna Convention on the Protection of the Ozone Layer, through 31 December 2004;

(x) Trust Fund for the Protection and Development of the Marine Environment and Coastal Areas of the West and Central African Region, through 31 December 2001;

(b) *Technical cooperation trust funds*:

(i) Technical Cooperation Trust Fund to Assist the Implementation of Agenda 21 in Europe and to Strengthen the Pan-European Environmental Cooperation (financed by the Government of the Netherlands), through 31 December 2001;

(ii) Technical Cooperation Trust Fund to Support the Establishment of Regional Centres under the Basel Convention (financed by the Government of Switzerland), through 31 December 2001;

(iii) Technical Cooperation Trust Fund to Provide Consultancies to Developing Countries (financed by the Government of Finland), through 31 December 1999;

(iv) Technical Cooperation Trust Fund to Strengthen the Institutional and Regulatory Capacity of Developing Countries in Africa (financed by the Government of the Netherlands), through 31 December 2001;

(v) Technical Cooperation Trust Fund to Assist Implementation of the Montreal Protocol on Substances that Deplete the Ozone Layer in Developing Countries (financed by the Government of Sweden), through 31 December 2001;

(vi) INFOTERRA Technical Cooperation Trust Fund (financed by the Government of the United States of America), through 31 December 2000;

(vii) Technical Cooperation Trust Fund to Promote Technical Cooperation and Assistance in Industrial, Environmental and Raw Materials Management (financed by the Government of Sweden), through 31 December 2000;

4. *Notes and approves* the closure of the following trust fund by the Executive Director: Technical Cooperation Trust Fund for the Provision of Short-term Experts to Developing Countries (financed by the Government of Germany);

5. *Also notes and approves* the closure of the following trust funds by the Executive Director subject to completion of their activities and clearance of all financial implications before the twenty-first regular session of the Governing Council:

(a) *General trust funds*: Regional Trust Fund for the Protection and Development of the Marine Environment and Coastal Areas of Bahrain, the Islamic Republic of Iran, Iraq, Kuwait, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates;

(b) *Technical cooperation trust funds*:

(i) Technical Cooperation Trust Fund to Assist Developing Countries to Take Action in accordance with Agenda 21 (financed by the Government of Sweden);

(ii) Technical Cooperation Trust Fund to Provide Consultancies to Developing Countries (financed by the Government of Finland);

(iii) Technical Cooperation Trust Fund for Activities in Developing Countries on Environmental Awareness and Machinery (financed by the Government of Germany);

(iv) Technical Cooperation Trust Fund for the Organization of a Technology Transfer Workshop on the Implementation of the Montreal Protocol for French-speaking African Countries (financed by the Government of France);

(v) Technical Cooperation Trust Fund for Establishment of a GRID Centre in Arendal (financed by the Government of Norway);

(vi) Technical Cooperation Trust Fund for the Production of an Information Video Booklet on Working Safely with Hydrocarbons in Domestic and Small-scale Commercial Refrigeration (financed by the Government of Germany);

(vii) Technical Cooperation Trust Fund to Develop and Coordinate the Implementation of the Plan for the Survey, Assessment and Dealing with the Consequences of Environmental Damage caused by the Conflict between Kuwait and Iraq;

(viii) Technical Cooperation Trust Fund to Promote Managerial Innovation and Excellence (financed by the Government of the United States of America);

(ix) Technical Cooperation Trust Fund to Assist Developing Countries to Take Action for the Protection of the Ozone Layer under the Vienna Convention and the Montreal Protocol (financed by the Government of Finland).

9th meeting
4 February 1999

20/35
The cost of administering trust funds and counterpart contributions

The Governing Council

1. *Takes note* of the report of the Executive Director on the cost of administering trust funds;[66]

2. *Requests* the Executive Director to implement appropriate actions directed towards reducing the cost of programme-support services provided to trust funds and related activities with a view to containing such costs within the programme support charges levied. These actions should include, *inter alia*:

(a) To ensure that the full 13 per cent support charge continues to be levied on all trust-fund expenditure and is also levied on directly related expenditure financed from voluntary additional contributions, such as counterpart contributions, in support of conventions and other trust-fund activities;

(b) To review the direct allocations provided to trust-fund-financed units, programmes and projects, as opposed to allocations provided to central administrative services, with a view to ensuring that trust-fund-financed units, programmes or projects do not incur a disproportionate burden on the programme-support charges levied;

(c) To ensure that the programme-support charges levied are not allocated towards activities of a programmatic nature, thereby decreasing the allocation available for the provision of management and administrative services;

(d) To streamline and rationalize the provision of management and administrative services in an effort to continue decreasing related costs;

3. *Also requests* the Executive Director to keep the issue under review and to report to the Governing Council at its twenty-first session on developments regarding the cost of administering trust funds and related contributions and activities.

9th meeting
4 February 1999

20/36
Environment Fund: financial report and audited accounts for the biennium 1996–1997 ended 31 December 1997

The Governing Council

1. *Takes note* of the observations of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions on the report of the Board of Auditors on the financial report and audited financial statements of the Environment Fund for the biennium 1996–1997 ended 31 December 1997;[67]

2. *Takes note also* of the comments of the Executive Director on the observations of the Advisory Committee.[68]

9th meeting
4 February 1999

20/37
Revision of the Financial Rules of the Fund of the United Nations Environment Programme and of the General Procedures Governing the Operations of the Environment Fund

The Governing Council

Takes note of the report of the Executive Director on the revision of the Financial Rules of the Fund of the United Nations Development Programme and of the General Procedures Governing the Operation of the Environment Fund.[69]

9th meeting
4 February 1999

20/38
Report on the status of implementation of the recommendations contained in the report of the Office of Internal Oversight Services

The Governing Council,

Having considered the report of the Executive Director on the status of implementation of the recommendations contained in the report of the Office of Internal Oversight Services,[70]

Takes note of the current status and ongoing implementation of the recommendations of the Office of Internal Oversight Services, the Board of Auditors and the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions.

9th meeting
4 February 1999

20/39
Functioning of the regional offices and proposed measures for the strengthening of regionalization and decentralization

The Governing Council

1. *Welcomes* the report of the Executive Director on the functioning of the regional offices and proposed measures for the strengthening of regionalization and decentralization;[71]

2. *Takes note* of the changes made by the Executive Director in the secretariat of the United Nations Environment Programme and its regional offices in order to strengthen regionalization and ensure that regional priorities are reflected in the core programme of the United Nations Environment Programme and that the Programme's global programme is reflected in the activities of the regional environmental forums and organizations;

3. *Requests* the Executive Director to continue to strengthen regionalization and decentralization, while maintaining the central coordinating role of the Programme's headquarters in Nairobi.

9th meeting
4 February 1999

20/40
Functioning of the specialized offices of the United Nations Environment Programme

The Governing Council

1. *Notes with appreciation* the report of the Executive Director on the functioning of the specialized offices of the United Nations Environment Programme;[72]

2. *Endorses* the steps taken by the Executive Director to bring greater efficiency through synergies between the main units in the secretariat of the United Nations Environment Programme addressing technology transfer, environmental issues related to industrial and urban activities (and, in particular, production and use of chemicals) as well as of energy, and the related key economic and trade aspects;

3. *Requests* the Executive Director to give priority to issues of trade and environment and to the promotion of cleaner production and transfer of environmentally sound technologies through these offices.

9th meeting
4 February 1999

20/41
Functioning of the Ombudsman Unit

The Governing Council,

Recalling its decision 18/42 of 25 May 1995, in which it approved the creation, upon a proposal of the Executive Director, of the Ombudsman Unit, after two years of pilot experience beginning in September 1993 with that Unit,

Considering the importance for the United Nations Environment Programme of the tasks assigned to the Ombudsman Unit in the fields of mediation, enquiry, counselling, the provision of information, briefing and management review,

Taking into account the success encountered by the Ombudsman Unit since its inception, which proves that it meets essential demands from personnel of the United Nations Environment Programme,

Underlining the honours received by the Ombudsman Unit when it was given the United Nations "UN21" award in July 1997 for "saving the Organization the time, costs and disruption involved in lengthy recourse procedures and appeals, and enhanced staff welfare",

Drawing attention in this respect to the observation of the Office of Internal Oversight Services, in its report of 27 February 1997,[73] that the Ombudsman Unit appeared to respond to a genuine need,

Stressing the positive comments received in this respect by the Office of Internal Oversight Services upon the submission of the annual report of the Ombudsman Unit for 1995,

Noting with concern that paragraph 10 of Governing Council decision 18/42, by which the Council requested the Executive Director to report annually to the members of the Governing Council on the activities of the Ombudsman, including any comments of the Office of Internal Oversight Services on those activities, has not been fully adhered to,

Noting with equal concern that owing to the non-submission for consideration by the Governing Council of the annual reports during 1995 and 1996, no execution has been given to paragraph 11 of decision 18/42, by which the Council, *inter alia*, decided to review the creation of the Ombudsman Unit at its nineteenth session,

Also noting that, under those circumstances, and without the involvement of the Governing Council, the Ombudsman Unit has not been provided with the necessary personnel and financial means for enabling it to perform its responsibility effectively,

Welcoming, however, the submission to the Committee of Permanent Representatives, in September 1998, by the secretariat of the United Nations Environment Programme of the report on the activities of the Ombudsman in 1997,

Considering the fact that other United Nations entities in Nairobi and their personnel would greatly benefit from the full range of services provided by the Ombudsman,

1. *Fully endorses* the increase in financial and personnel allocations to the Ombudsman Unit in the budget for the biennium 2000–2001 as proposed by the Executive Director;

2. *Invites* the Executive Director to submit to the members of the Governing Council all annual reports on the Ombudsman Unit still pending;

3. Also invites the Executive Director to extend the services of the Ombudsman Unit to other United Nations entities if so requested by them;

4. *Requests* the Executive Director to prepare, for consideration by the Committee of Permanent Representatives at its first meeting after the twentieth session of the Governing Council, an evaluation report on the functioning of the Ombudsman Unit containing an analysis of and recommendations on its status, range of action, terms of reference and necessary financial and material means as well as personnel, giving particular attention to the issue of the autonomy of the Unit;

5. *Decides* to review, at its twenty-first session, the operations of the Ombudsman Unit;

6. *Requests* the Executive Director to submit to the Governing Council at its twenty-first session all relevant information and reports regarding the Ombudsman Unit.

9th meeting
4 February 1999

Other decisions

Provisional agenda, date and place of the twenty-first session of the Governing Council

1. At the 11th plenary meeting of the session, on 5 February 1999, the Governing Council decided, in accordance with rules 1, 2 and 4 of its rules of procedure, to hold its twenty-first session at Nairobi from 5 to 9 February 2001.

2. The Council also decided that the informal consultations among heads of delegations should be held in the afternoon of Sunday, 4 February 2001, the day before the opening of the session.

3. The Council further approved the following provisional agenda for its twenty-first session:

1. Opening of the session.
2. Organization of the session:
   (a) Election of officers;
   (b) Adoption of the agenda and organization of the work of the session.
3. Credentials of representatives.
4. Policy issues:
   (a) State of the environment;
   (b) Emerging policy issues;
   (c) Coordination and cooperation within and outside the United Nations, including non-governmental organizations;
   (d) Governance of the United Nations Environment Programme.
5. Follow-up of General Assembly resolutions.
6. Linkages among and support to environmental and environment-related conventions.
7. Contribution to future sessions of the Commission on Sustainable Development.
8. Programme, the Environment Fund and administrative and other budgetary matters.
9. Provisional agenda, date and place of the twenty-second session of the Council.
10. Other matters.
11. Adoption of the report.
12. Closure of the session.

Membership of the High-level Committee of Ministers and Officials

At the 11th plenary meeting of the session, on 5 February 1999, the Governing Council elected the following States as members of the High-level Committee of Ministers and Officials, in accordance with paragraph (b) of its decision 19/32 of 4 April 1997: Algeria, Argentina, Bangladesh, Brazil, Burundi, Canada, China, Congo, Cuba, Denmark,* Finland,** France, Germany, Greece, India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Iraq, Jamaica, Japan, Kenya, Mexico, Morocco, Nigeria, Peru, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Russian Federation, Senegal, Slovakia, Switzerland, Thailand, Turkey, Uganda, Zambia, Zimbabwe.

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* For 2000.
** For 1999.

Notes

[1] UNEP/GC.20/3.

[2] UNEP/GC.20/4.

[3] UNEP/GC.20/5.

[4] Governing Council decision 17/25, annex.

[5] UNEP/GC.20/INF/16.

[6] *Report of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, Rio de Janeiro, 3–14 June 1992* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.93.I.8 and corrigenda), vol. I: *Resolutions adopted by the Conference*, resolution 1, annex I.

[7] Ibid., annex II.

[8] ECE/COP/43.

[9] UNEP/GC.20/45.

[10] UNEP/GC.20/46.

[11] UNEP/GC.20/INF/17.

[12] UNEP/GC.20/6.

[13] UNEP/GC.20/8.

[14] UNEP/GC.20/44.

[15] Governing Council decision 19/1, annex.

[16] UNEP/GC.20/8, para. 60.

[17] UNEP/GCSS.IV/2, annex.

[18] UNEP/GC.20/9.

[19] *Report of the Fourth World Conference on Women, Beijing, 4–15 September 1995* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.96.IV.13), resolution 1, annex II.

[20] UNEP/GC.20/10.

[21] UNEP/GC.20/11.

[22] A/49/84/Add.2, annex, appendix II.

[23] UNEP/AMCEN/CONSULT.1/5, para. 3 (a).

[24] General Assembly resolution S–19/2, annex.

[25] UNEP/GC.20/7.

[26] UNEP/GC.20/12 and UNEP/GC.20/INF/14.

[27] UNEP/GC.20/13.

[28] UNEP/GC.20/14.

[29] A/53/463.

[30] See UNEP/GC.20/INF/22.

[31] UNEP/GC.20/18.

[32] UNEP/GC.20/16.

[33] UNEP/GC.20/17.

[34] UNEP/GC.20/40.

[35] UNEP/GC.20/19 and Add.1 and 2 and UNEP/GC.20/42.

[36] UNEP(OCA)/LBA/IG.2/7.

[37] UNEP/GC.20/32 and Corr.1.

[38] UNEP/GC.20/19/Add.2.

[39] *Report of the Global Conference on the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States, Bridgetown, Barbados, 25 April–6 May 1994* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.94.I.18 and corrigenda), chap. I, resolution 1, annex II.

[40] See UNEP/GC.20/42.

[41] Published for the United Nations Development Programme by the Oxford University Press, New York, 1998.

[42] UNEP/GC.20/35.

[43] UNEP/GC.20/39 and Corr.1.

[44] UNEP/FAO/PIC/CONF/5, annex III.

[45] The voluntary prior informed consent procedure as amended in accordance with the resolution on interim arrangements adopted by the Conference of Plenipotentiaries (UNEP/FAO/PIC/CONF/5, annex I, resolution 1) and decision SS.V/5 of the Governing Council.

[46] UNEP/GC.20/37, UNEP/GC.20/39 and Corr.1, UNEP/GC.20/41 and UNEP/GC.20/INF/20.

[47] UNEP/GC.20/41.

[48] UNEP/GC.20/31.

[49] UNEP/Global Consultation/Biosafety/4, annex II.

[50] UNEP/GC.20/33.

[51] See United Nations Environment Programme, *Convention on Biological Diversity* (Environmental Law and Institutions Programme Activity Centre), June 1992.

[52] See UNEP/GC.20/33, paras. 11–17.

[53] UNEP/GC.20/34.

[54] A/AC.237/18 (Part II)/Add.1 and Corr.1, annex I.

[55] See UNEP/AMCEN CONSULT.1/5.

[56] UNEP/GC.20/40.

[57] Robert T. Watson, John A. Duyon, Steven P. Hamburg, Anthony C. Janetos, Richard H. Moss, *Protecting Our Planet, Securing Our Future: Linkages among Global Environmental Issues and Human Needs* (United Nations Environment Programme, United States National Aeronautics and Space Administration, World Bank, November 1998).

[58] UNEP/GC.20/43.

[59] UNEP/GC.20/30.

[60] UNEP/GC.20/22 and Add.1.

[61] UNEP/GC.20/21.

[62] UNEP/GC.20/47.

[63] UNEP/GC.20/22.

[64] UNEP/GC.20/23.

[65] UNEP/GC.20/25.

[66] UNEP/GC.20/26.

[67] UNEP/GC.20/27, paras. 3–8.

[68] UNEP/GC.20/24, paras. 9–15.

[69] UNEP/GC.20/27.

[70] UNEP/GC.20/20.

[71] UNEP/GC.20/28.

[72] UNEP/GC.20/29.

[73] See A/51/810.

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